FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Near East & South Asia

Vol V No 150 *5 August 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 August Middle East and South Asia Review ..... AA 1

ALGERIA

President Phones King Fahd, Called by Al-Qadhdhafi ..... A 1
Nation's Pilgrims in Mecca 'Safe and Sound' ..... A 1
Libyan Minister Holds Talks on Transport, Industry *[JANA]* ..... A 1
Minutes of Accord Signed *[JANA]* ..... A 1
Messaadia Holds Talks With DFLP's Hawatimah ..... A 1
Ibrahimi Meets With France's Chirac in Paris *[cross-reference]* ..... A 1

SUDAN

SPLA Issues 27 Jul Press Statement on Civil War *[Radio SPLA]* ..... G 1
Garang on 'Readiness' To Resume Al-Mahdi Talks *[MENA]* ..... G 1
Radio SPLA Reports Forces' Successful Operations ..... G 2
Umm Dorein Headquarters Taken ..... G 2
S. Kurdfan Achievements Noted ..... G 2
Activity in Rumbek Reported ..... G 2

WESTERN SAHARA

Saharan Statement on U.S. Arms Sales to Morocco *[APS]* ..... I 1
SDAR Protests Extension of Fishing Agreement *[APS]* ..... I 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Envoy to U.S. Interviewed on Reflagging, Gulf War *[London AL-TADAMUN 1 Aug]* ..... J 1

PDRY

Minister Urges Response to General Amnesty Decree ..... J 2

SAUDI ARABIA

Ulema Denounces 'Regrettable' Mecca Clashes ..... J 2
Mecca Sermon Critical of Riots, Urges Sanctity ..... J 3
King Receives Kuwaiti Defense Minister, Others ..... J 4
King Fahd To Receive Pilgrimage Leaders 5 Aug ..... J 4

IRAQ

Communique No 2,766 Notes Combat 3-4 Aug ..... K 1
AL-TADAMUN Interviews Envoy to U.S. on Gulf War *[London 1 Aug]* ..... K 1
MIG-21 Incident Possible Syrian 'Debt' to Iran *[AL-THAWRAH 29 Jul]* ..... K 3

ISRAEL

Spokesman Denies No Cooperation on Pollard ..... L 1
Eban Committee To Submit Report ..... L 1

Sources View Iraqi Missiles as 'Direct' Threat *[HADASHOT 5 Aug]* ..... L 1
Chirac Denies Offer To Rebuild Iraqi Reactor ..... L 1
Hungary Seeks Relations on 'Extremely Low Level' *[HATZOFE 4 Aug]* ..... L 1
Rabin Expresses Regret Over UNIFIL Incident ..... L 2
Norwegian Envoy Protests ..... L 2
Lebanon Coordinator Comments ..... L 2
PRC Retracts Agreement To Admit Tourists *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 4 Aug]* ..... L 2
Histadrut To Continue Import-Export Trade With RSA *[THE JERUSALEM POST 5 Aug]* ..... L 3
Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motions ..... L 3
Espionage Affair Disclosed; Two Convicted ..... L 3
Peres Meets With Frayj Prior to Jordan Visit *[THE JERUSALEM POST 5 Aug]* ..... L 3
Rabin Says Jordan River Labor's 'Security Border' *[MA'ARIV 4 Aug]* ..... L 3
West Bank Agricultural Marketing Body Established *['AL HAMISHMAR 3 Aug]* ..... L 4
Palestinians Permitted to Settle in West Bank ..... L 4
Gaza Curfew Being Lifted; Investigations Proceed ..... L 4
New Date Set for Governmnet Decision on Lavi ..... L 4

JORDAN

Parliament Continues Supplementary Budget Debate *[JORDAN TIMES 1 Aug]* ..... M 1

LEBANON

Syrian Defense Minister Visits West Beirut *[VOL]* ..... N 1
UK Weekly Interviews Foreign Ministry Official *[London AL-HAWADITH 31 Jul]* ..... N 1
Palestinians Reportedly Murder Three Youths ..... N 2

SYRIA

Foreign Minister Leaves for Tehran 4 Aug ..... O 1
Al-Kasm Receives Soviet Oil Delegation Head ..... O 1
AL-BA'TH Hails Soviet-Syrian Spaceflight *[23 Jul]* ..... O 1

AFGHANISTAN

Presidium Approves Message to Opposition Leaders ..... P 1
Document Adopted on Volunteer Force Formation ..... P 1
Condolence Ceremony Held at Iranian Embassy ..... P 1

BANGLADESH

Government Releases 5 Opposition Politicians *[AFP]* ..... Q 1
New Party Formed to 'Uphold Islamic Values' *[AFP]* ..... Q 1
Indian Reports on Involvement in Sabotage Denied ..... Q 1

INDIA

Two Pakistani 'Intruders' Killed in Border Clash ..... R 1
Security Implications of Pakistani AWACS Noted ..... R 1
Gandhi: Accord Helps Sri Lanka Maintain Integrity ..... R 1
Minister Responds to Report on Foreign 'Designs' ..... R 1
Warns of Anti-Indian Forces ..... R 1
Further Reportage on PLO Chairman's Visit ..... R 1
'Arafat Commends Support ..... R 1
Assails Iranian Threat to Saudis ..... R 2
Departs, Says Visit 'Fruitful' ..... R 2
Upper House Passes Bill on Nuclear Power Company ..... R 2
Tarapur Atomic Power Station Unit Sets Record ..... R 2

IRAN

Khomeyni Cancels End of Hajj Festival Meetings ..... S 1
Correction to Khomeyni Message to Pilgrims, Part III ..... S 1
Syrian Foreign Minister Conveys Al-Asad's Support ..... S 1
Reportage, Comment on Maneuvers in Persian Gulf ..... S 2
Naval Commander on Operations ..... S 2
Malekzadegan Says Missiles Ready ..... S 3
Rezai'e on Submarine Launch ..... S 3
Amphibious Operations in Gulf ..... S 3
365,000 Sign 'Martyrdom Certificates' ..... S 4
Second Phase of Maneuvers ..... S 4
Correspondent Details Operations ..... S 4
Maneuvers Expose U.S. Weaknesses ..... S 4
London Envoy on U.S. Response to Gulf Maneuvers ..... S 5
Mobilization Forces To Hold 'Allegiance' Maneuvers ..... S 5
Official Says Saudi Totals on Deaths 'Incorrect' ..... S 5
Hajj Doctor on Causes of Deaths, Number of Injured ..... S 5
Musavi on Saudi Delaying Tactics Over Mecca Corpses ..... S 6
Iran Air Flight Leaves Mecca With Dead, Wounded ..... S 6
Musavi, Others Meet Plane ..... S 7
Musavi on Pilgrims' Condition ..... S 7
Wounded Pilgrims Detail Saudi 'Crimes' ..... S 8
Janatti Urges International Hajj Governing Body ..... S 8
Saudi Charges of 1986 Explosives Smuggling Denied ..... S 8
U.S. Involvement in Mecca 'Massacre' Cited ..... S 9
Cabinet Meets on War, Mecca Shootings 3 Aug ..... S 9
Musavi, Jalali Address Session ..... S 9
Further on Cabinet Discussion ..... S 9
Musavi States 'Tit-For-Tat' Policy To Be Pursued ..... S 10
Charge in Kuwait Condemns Cover Up of 'Carnage' ..... S 10
Official Takes Hajj Killings Message to Pakistan ..... S 10
Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollah Statement on Mecca Incident ..... S 10
SAIRI Vows Vengeance for Deaths in Mecca ..... S 11
Afghan Muslim Leader Urges Revenge for Mecca ..... S 11
Air Force Commander Briefs Khamene'i on Readiness ..... S 11
Khamene'i, Malekzadegan Attend Navy Graduation ..... S 11
Khamene'i Addresses Graduates ..... S 11
UN Envoy Rajaie-Khorassani Warns France on Gorji *[Paris]* ..... S 12
Turkish Official Meets Besharati, Larijani ..... S 12
Mohtashemi, Turkish Envoy Discuss Mecca 'Incident' ..... S 12
Vural Pledge on Anti-Iran Groups ..... S 13
3rd Session of Joint Economic Talks With PRC ..... S 13
Ministers Agree on Oil Sale ..... S 13
Polish Priest Sentenced to 3 Years for 'Spying' *[AFP]* ..... S 13
Shelling of Qal'at Dizah Residential Area Denied ..... S 14
Shelling of Basra Denied ..... S 14
Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue ..... S 14
Iraqi Counterattack Repulsed ..... S 14
Fighter-Bombers Strike Maymak ..... S 14
Ground Forces Ambush Iraqi Bases ..... S 14

PAKISTAN

Government 'Disappointed' by U.S. Aid Suspension ..... V 1
Spokesman on U.S. Relations, Sri Lankan Accord ..... V 1

SRI LANKA

LTTE Reportedly To Lay Down Arms 5 Aug *[AFP]* ..... W 1

LTTE Leader on Arms Surrender, Accord *[Delhi]* ..... W 1
LTTE Begins Surrendering Arms *[Delhi]* ..... W 1
Police Chief Comments on Security Situation ..... W 1
Curfew Reimposed 5 Aug; Hours Stipulated ..... W 1

5 August Middle East and South Asia Review

LD051247 [Editorial Report]

Iran

'Martyrdom' Maneuvers — Iran will launch its first submarine during the current "Martyrdom" maneuvers, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) commander stated in remarks cited by IRNA. He also disclosed that the IRGC will use surface-to-sea and surface-to-air missiles against hypothetical targets, adding that the former will only be locked on to targets and will not be fired unless an "enemy" instigates an "untoward incident." Reporting on the progress of the maneuvers, IRNA noted that IRGC forces staged amphibious operations in the Khawr 'Abdallah channel and repelled mock air and sea attacks. Tehran radio announced that 365,000 members of the Mobilization forces have signed "martyrdom certificates" pledging their readiness for "suicide operations against the aggressors" in the Gulf. A commentary by the radio warned the United States that if it embarks on military operations in the Gulf it will not only have to deal with mines or speedboats loaded with explosives. Iran also has "equipment and facilities, supported by domestic experts, which are unknown to the United States," the radio added.

Pilgrims — The bodies of 58 dead pilgrims were flown to Tehran the night of 4 August, Tehran radio revealed, adding that an additional 250 corpses of "martyrs" remain in Saudi Arabia. Commenting on the condition of the dead and of 35 injured pilgrims who returned in the same plane, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi reaffirmed Iranian claims that pilgrims were hit by bullets and he spoke of a "horrific and unbelievable" assault by the Saudi security forces. Musavi had earlier accused Saudi Arabia of "obstuctionist and delaying tactics" in the transfer of dead and wounded pilgrims, according to the radio.

Foreign Relations — The Syrian foreign minister left for Tehran carrying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President 'Ali Khamene'i, Damascus radio announced 5 August. Regarding the PRC commerce minister's current visit to Tehran, IRNA disclosed that the Chinese envoy and Iran's oil minister signed an agreement for the sale of 1 million tonnes of crude oil to the PRC during a 1-year period starting in September. As for relations with Turkey, IRNA reported that the Turkish ambassador said his country will not allow Turkish soil to be used by enemies of the Islamic Republic. Speaking in a meeting with Iran's interior minister, the ambassador also urged the Iranians to give Turkey information that will enable it to combat "anti-Iran groups" operating on Turkish territory.

Saudi Arabia

SPA carried a statement by a council of 18 eminent Saudi theologians blaming the Iranian pilgrims for the "evils andsedition" resulting from their "appalling" action in Mecca. Stressing that pilgrims are directed by God to avoid disputes, disrespect, and "false" words, the Saudi ulema urged the Iranian leaders to stop encouraging their pilgrims to engage in "provocative" actions that contravene God's orders. In a related development, Riyadh television broadcast an 'Id al-Adha sermon from Mecca's Grand Mosque in which the speaker told believers not to violate the sanctity of the holy places nor to disturb the faithful and their worship. He said no faithful Muslim can accept the actions of those pilgrims who incited trouble, disturbances, and sedition.

King Fahd received the Kuwaiti defense minister 4 August, Riyadh radio noted.

Iraq

Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Shaykhali, minister of higher education and scientific research, was promoted to the post of interior minister, and Muhammad Mahdi Salih, deputy chief of the President's Office, was named trade minister, INA reported.

Israel

Iraqi Missile 'Threat' — The newly developed Iraqi missile represents a "direct strategic threat" to Israel and a "new stage" in the regional arms race, according to "political circles" cited by *Hadashot* 5 August. The sources added that by producing its own missiles, Iraq will no longer have to depend on the USSR and will be able to compensate for its "aerial inferiority" as compared to Israel.

Pollard Investigation — "Official circles" denied that Israel has stopped cooperating with the U.S. investigation of the Pollard case, Jerusalem radio reported.

UNIFIL Soldiers Wounded — Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressed "regret" over a 3 August incident during which IDF soldiers wounded two Norwegian UNIFIL soldiers in southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. According to AFP, Norway handed over a "strongly worded protest" and demanded a "full explanation."

Gaza Curfew Lifted — Restrictions on land and sea travel in Gaza were being lifted, Jerusalem radio reported 4 August, adding that efforts to find the murderer of IDF Captain Ron Tal continue.

President Phones King Fahd, Called by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD050111 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, yesterday telephoned King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to offer his best wishes on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha. He additionally inquired about developments in Mecca following events of the past few days.

Meanwhile, President Chadli Bendjedid received a telephone call from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution. Col al-Qadhdhafi offered the head of state and the Algerian people his best wishes on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha.

Nation's Pilgrims in Mecca 'Safe and Sound'

LD011515 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] All is well with Algeria's pilgrims in Mecca. The Algerian Ministry of Religious Affairs, which contacted the Algerian mission to the Islamic holy places, emphasized that Algeria's citizens are safe and sound and are continuing their pilgrimage.

Libyan Minister Holds Talks on Transport, Industry

LD292235 Tripoli JANA in English 1450 GMT 29 Jul 87

[Text] Algiers, Nasir [July] 29, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The secretary of the People's Committee for Communications and Marine Transport has met this afternoon Mr. Rachid Benyelles, the Algerian additional member of the Politburo and minister of transport.

The two sides discussed ways for promoting co-operation between the two sisterly countries during which committees were set up undertaking the discussion of the future dimensions of this co-operation in the fields of communciations and marine transport.

Additionally, the above Libyan Arab secretary has met the Algerian Minister of Heavy Industries Mr. "Faysal Boudraa" [quotation marks as received] discussing the strengthening of the brotherly co-operation between the two sisterly countries in the industrial field.

Minutes of Accord Signed

LD022318 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1645 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Algiers, 2 Aug (JANA) — The minutes of a cooperation agreement covering communications; road, air, and maritime transport; and telecommunications were signed in Algiers this morning. This act is part of achieving technical and economic integration within the framework of unionist steps between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Algeria.

The minutes of the agreement, which were signed by Algeria's Minister of Transport Rachid Benyelles and the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Communication and Transport, encompass supporting and consolidating all cooperation means in industrialization, training, civil aviation, meteorological observation, enviromental protection, fighting pollution on the shores of the Arab Maghreb, and seeking new fields of cooperation. It also encompasses an exchange of experiences in technical fields.

The minutes of the agreement also concerned the creation of a mixed subcommittee for the merchant marine and harbors. This subcommittee would be granted prerogatives, within the mixed committee for cooperation in the transportation field, to follow up decisions previously adopted and coordination of agreements coming within the framework of the following strategy of development: the field of maritime transport and harbors in the two fraternal countries; the consolidation of the study of preparation for projects and studies; technical assistance; the utilization and maintenance of installations; the technical control of equipment; and the presentation of suggestions that can strengthen industrial integration of the two fraternal countries.

Messaadia Holds Talks With DFLP's Hawatimah

LD282214 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 28 Jul 87

[Text] Mr Cherif Messaadia today received DFLP Secretary General Mr Nayif Hawatimah. The two men reviewed the Palestinian situation as well as a series of matters connected with the Arab Maghreb and Mashriq.

Ibrahimi Meets With France's Chirac in Paris

For reportage on the visit to France by Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, including his remarks following a meeting with French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac in which Algeria's role in the Franco-Iranian crisis and the topic of the violence in Mecca were discussed, see the France section of the 3 August West Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

SPLA Issues 27 Jul Press Statement on Civil War

EA042111 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Excerpts] On 27th July 1987 the SPLA issued yet another press statement under the title "Highlight on the Civil War in the Sudan: Why the War Continues." Here is the text of the press release that carries six subtitles.

1. "On the Unity and Territorial Integrity of The Sudan" — The SPLM-SPLA and the Khartoum government agree on and affirm the unity and territorial integrity of The Sudan. However, this is almost the only substantive point of agreement. On other fundamental issues, there is a chronic crisis in perception and reflection in Khartoum. On these issues Khartoum is stubborn, arrogant, intransigent, and unwilling or unable to move an inch from its sectarian position. The fundamental differences in perception and approach between the SPLM-SPLA and Khartoum are highlighted below, and it is on these that well-wishers can base their mediation efforts.

2. "On the Basic Character of The Sudan" — The SPLM-SPLA holds that Sudan is multiracial and multireligious and it is lack of concrete appreciation of this basic character of The Sudan that has been the main cause of war and instability in The Sudan. Dictatorship by one racial group or by one religious group over the others is clearly a recipe for disaster and explains why The Sudan has been at war within itself for 21 of her 32 years of political independence. The SPLM-SPLA therefore called for a secular multiracial united states. On these Khartoum argues that Muslims are the majority, and therefore the Ummah, the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party], and the National Islamic Front parties call for Islamic shari'ah law and an Islamic republic that protects the rights of non-Muslims. The SPLM-SPLA counters this argument by pointing out that a Sudan based on a sectarian majority cannot be viable. As an example, the Africans, according to the 1956 independence census, constitute 60 percent of the populations to the Arabs' 39 percent. Based on Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's philosophy of the dictatorship of the majority, the Africans could equally argue that since they are the majority that they are entitled to political supremacy. But like religious majority, racial majority is also a recipe for disaster. These are outdated political concepts and must be thrown away, especially in the Sudanese situation.

3. "On Islamic Shari'ah Law" — The SPLM-SPLA calls for the abolition of shari'ah Islamic laws imposed on the country by decree by dictator Numayri in September 1983 and return to the situation ante. Khartoum seeks to reinforce these laws by replacing them with what they call truly Islamic laws.

4. "On Defense Pacts and Protocols With Foreign Countries" — The SPLM-SPLA calls for the abrogation of defense pacts and protocols signed by Numayri's and Siwar al-Dhahab's governments, as these compromise our sovereignty and as these were reached to combat the SPLA. These defense pacts and protocols internationalize a purely internal conflict. On these Khartoum flatly refuses to abrogate the defense treaties and protocols, thus exposing its stand to solve the conflict by military means and through foreign intervention. Genuine peace cannot be achieved when foreign powers have the legal right to intervene militarily in The Sudan.

5. "On Genocide and Slavery in The Sudan" — The Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi declared publicly over the BBC, about a year ago, that he will exterminate southern Sudanese if the SPLM does not bow to his terms. This policy has been under implementation by Al-Sadiq's government since then. The recent massacre of 3,000 southerners in (?Al-Duayn) and the taking of a similar number into slavery is just the tip of the iceberg. The SPLM-SPLA denounces this obnoxious policy in the strongest of terms, fights against it with all its might, and here appeals to the OAU, the UN, and Amnesty International to make their own independent investigations into this government-sponsored genocide and slavery in The Sudan in the 20th century.

6. "On the Road to Peace" — The SPLM-SPLA calls for peaceful resolution of the conflict through the Koka Dam Declaration, to which the ruling Ummah Party was a signatory, and which calls for the convening of a national constitutional conference to be attended by all the political forces in the country in order to arrive at a national consensus on the fundamental problems of The Sudan: the economy; power sharing at the center; the nationality question; the religious question, et cetera. On this Khartoum seeks to solve what they call the southern problem, giving lip service to the national problem. Khartoum has therefore tried all means to build what they call an effective internal southern front with which it could reach some sort of agreement without the SPLM-SPLA. This has been a total failure and so Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has been talking about new peace initiatives and sometimes about returning to Koka Dam as a basis for dialogue. But then he contradicted himself recently by declaring a state of emergency in the whole country for one year. While the Koka Dam Declaration calls for a simultaneous lifting of the state of emergency and the declaration of cease-fire, Al-Sadiq has instead imposed a compound state of emergency.

Garang on 'Readiness' To Resume Al-Mahdi Talks

NC041306 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Addis Ababa, 4 Aug (MENA) — John Garang, leader of the southern Sudanese rebels, has expressed his readiness to resume dialogue with Sudanese Prime Minister al Sadiq al-Mahdi on the problem of southern Sudan. The dialogue was halted after a civilian Sudanese airliner was shot down in southern Sudan last year. Garang and Al-Mahdi had held their first meeting in Addis Ababa on the sidelines of the previous OAU summit.

In an interview in Addis Ababa with MENA Chief Editor Mustafa Najib, Garang stated that he believes Al-Mahdi is now ready to resume the dialogue. He stressed the need to reach a "political solution" to the southern Sudan problem, noting that wars in themselves are "a political action." Garang declared: "We want to end the war as quickly as possible. The Sudanese people want peace; the sooner the better. It is difficult to set a date. but it is up to the Khartoum authorities to end the war." He emphasized that the war must end with peace because there is no permanent war. However, Garang expressed his belief that

Khartoum's stand is "not conducive" to achieving an end to the southern conflict and to attaining peace "on the basis of reality."

Regarding current developments in Sudan, Garang called for ending the public state of emergency. He welcomed the formation of a "national government" and pointed out that the current government in Khartoum is based on parties and that parliamentary seats are distributed among party members. "This is a problem," he stressed. Garang added: We do not support a return by Sudanese military officers to power in Khartoum. However, should this occur, and should military officers take power, this would not be of concern to us." He commented: "We want to hold a dialogue with the Sudanese, including military officers." He additionally pointed out that Sudan is a nonreligious country, noting that a democracy cannot be established upon religious or ethnic foundations.

Garang expressed his belief that Al-Mahdi used the SPLA's downing of a Sudanese civil airliner in the nation's south last year as a pretext to halt dialogue. This dialogue began in Koko Dam in Ethiopia in 1986 during the transitional military rule under Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab. Garang believes that his forces' downing of the airliner "should not impinge upon the issue of peace in southern Sudan, since war is not easy and the downing of an airliner is not equal to striking at peace." He also alleged that the Sudanese Armed Forces use civilian aircraft to transport military personnel, and stated that mistakes occur in cases when civilian and military efforts are intermingled. Garang additionally disclosed that he had warned Al-Mahdi against sending any civilian or military aircraft to the region. [passage omitted]

Radio SPLA Reports Forces' Successful Operations

Umm Dorein Headquarters Taken

LD012232 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Excerpt] The SPLA Volcano Force positioned in south Kurdofan under the unified command of Major Yusuf Kuwah Makki, alternate member of the supreme political-military command and zonal commander of operations, captured the headquarters of the Umm Dorein center, located 30 miles from Kaduqli. This was accomplished on 30 July. The taking and occupation of Umm Dorein center was achieved by the 1st Volcano Force under the direct commander of Lieutenant General (Nikonoro Magar Achwek), deputy commander of the Volcano Force, and Major (Elijah Wantop), commander of the 1st Volcano Force, with the aid of officers and NCO's. [passage omitted]

S. Kurdfan Achievements Noted

EA032026 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, the chairman and commander in chief of SPLM-SPLA, has congratulated Major Yusuf Kuwah, the officers, NCO's, and men of Volcano [not further identified] for successfully and effectively taking the war to War Zone 2 and for the ongoing victories in southern Kurdufan. In the latest development, Maj Usuf Kuwah Makki, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA political-military high command and zonal commander for southern Kurdufan, has declared that his forces are now advancing towards the towns of Kadugli and Talodi, and has accordingly warned the inhabitants of both towns to evacuate the towns in order to avoid any possible harm that may result from SPLA operations against the two towns. Maj Yusuf Kuwah has stressed the need for residents of both towns to make haste in leaving the towns, urging them to take the warning seriously.

Activity in Rumbek Reported

EA032134 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Radio SPLA has learned that SPLA forces operating in Lakes zonal command have followed up earlier operation against the enemy in Rumbek with sustained and intense shelling of enemy positions on the Bahr el-Gel River. Details of the latest bombardment, which has been accompanied by a heavy raid on 26 July 1987, have not been supplied yet, but our correspondent said that enemy casualties were heavy. [passage omitted]

Saharan Statement on U.S. Arms Sales to Morocco

LD011315 Algiers APS in Arabic 1010 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] Liberated Territories, 1 Aug (APS) — The U.S. Administration has taken a dangerous step with its military commitment to the Moroccan expansionist regime, which has now waged a hostile war against the Saharan people for more than 11 years.

The statement, which the Saharan Information Ministry published last Thursday [30 August], indicated that by informing Congress of its decision to sell 100 M-400-A5 tanks — equipped with machineguns, artillery, and radio equipment — the U.S. Government has again confirmed its military intentions and its preference for full-scale conflict in northwest Africa.

The statement added that the U.S. Government does not ignore the fact that economic development in the Maghreb in particular and North Africa in general cannot be achieved by accumulating sophisticated arms, but only by encouraging efforts that are currently being exerted to bring about a just and lasting peace. This is an essential basis and a prerequisite for the region's development.

The statement indicated that, by making such a decision, the United States is hampering UN and OAU peace initiatives aimed at solving the problem of the Western Sahara. Morocco is consequently encouraged in its stubbornness against the international community.

This decision is unacceptable blackmail of the Maghreb peoples' legitimate aspirations for self-determination, freely chosen and in an atmosphere of peace and harmony.

On the other hand, the Saharan statement appeals to the U.S. Congress to reject this decision, which aims at continuing this criminal and unjust war — whose consequences are paid for by the blood of the Moroccan and Saharan peoples — and which threatens to expand in the entire region if such decisions such as that adopted by the Pentagon are carried out.

While the Saharan statement condemns the initiative of the U.S. Government, it also calls on the international community and peace- and justice-loving people of the world to express their rejection of this antipeace challenge, and to instead, express their solidarity with the Saharan people's just cause.

SDAR Protests Extension of Fishing Agreement

LD041732 Algiers APS in Arabic 1433 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] SDAR, 4 Aug (APS) — A communique issued by the Saharan Ministry of Information today indicated that the Saharan Government has informed the EEC member states of its great concern following the European Community's decision to extend the Spanish-Moroccan fishing agreement for another 5 months.

The communique added that the Saharan minister stated in a letter addressed to the Danish foreign minister, who is also the EEC's present chairman, that extending this agreement under its initial terms violates international law and encourages the war of agression that the Moroccan regime has imposed upon the Saharan people. This extension therefore runs counter to the peace efforts made by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

The Saharan Ministry of Information ended its communique by stating that the Saharan minister has called on the EEC member states to refrain from making such a decision.

KUWAIT

Envoy to U.S. Interviewed on Reflagging, Gulf War

PM031255 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
1 Aug 87 pp 8, 9

[Report on interview with Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah, Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States, by Khalil Matar in Washington; date not given]

[Text] The Kuwaiti ambassador believes that it is the Americans who are most preoccupied with the flags flying over Kuwaiti ships. In reply to a question about the reasons for the uproar that coincided with the reflagging, he said: Perhaps [it is] because this issue constitutes a new departure for them, especially as the reflagging is accompanied by the provision of protection in areas considered dangerous. To them, this is a new departure. The situation was further stirred up after the attack on the frigate *Stark* and the political uproar regarding the Iran-contra arms scandal. All such matters add fuel to the flames. Soviet, British, and French ships came without a fuss. What is happening might be a warning to Iran not to expand the war zone. Perhaps this maneuver will bring the war to a end, especially as world concerns and the Security Council's concerns are now focused on the region. Therefore, I believe that all these matters have prompted the big powers to work toward putting an end to the war. We hope Iran will not reject the Security Council's resolution, since it expresses the wish of the entire world.

[Matar] Do you believe that sailing under the U.S. flag eliminates numerous risks which ships could encounter?

[Al-Sabah] Risks exist, and ships are undoubtedly exposed to them. Iran is still threatening to hit them, regardless of their flag. However, I hope Iran will end the war.

[Matar] Iran said it would not hit ships if Iraq ceased to hit its ships.

[Al-Sabah] Striking at ships is provided for in the Security Council's resolution. Iraq has adhered to a cease-fire on land, at sea, and in the air, as stipulated in the resolution. Iraq has stopped fighting, and they (Iran) have to do so as well. I hope they will be committed [to a cease-fire]. But if they are not, what would be the alternative? Only sanctions; however, it is still too early to talk about these. This will be revealed in the near future.

[Matar] Do you agree with the claim that the war has been internationalized by the recent Kuwaiti step?

[Al-Sabah] The war has been internationalized since it began. Arms come from foreign states; its fuel is foreign. Therefore, it has been internationalized since it began. The situation has not changed for 7 years. The subject of oil tankers is a marginal issue that does not mean internationalization.

[Matar] The presence of Soviet and U.S. fleets in the Gulf now is probably a goad, something which stirs up both parties. Do you accept such a claim?

[Al-Sabah] The Gulf is not a closed sea; every state has the right to sail in it. We wish no fleets were there, but this does not prevent their presence, since the Gulf is an international sea and waterway. The presence of fleets in international waters does not mean that coastal states are satisfied with them. The contradiction between the Soviets and the Americans which you mentioned is only to be expected. However, the time has come to put an end to the war.

[Matar] Has the end begun?

[Al-Sabah] Let us be optimistic. We cannot obtain more than we have already obtained. Nothing more than a Security Council resolution can be obtained. If the resolution fails, matters will become more dangerous than they were before.

[Matar] Is there a U.S. plan to respond to Iran if it attacks ships?

[Al-Sabah] Arrangements and protection are in proportion to the scale of the existing risks. However, the decision to provide protection is a U.S. decision. Kuwaiti arrangements were nothing more than the reregistration of ships in the United States.

[Matar] When will the reregistration process end?

[Al-Sabah] Within 2 months. I repeat here: The ships are now American. Protection is American, and the question of protection or response concerns them [the United States] alone. As for the question of how much [protection], it is being raised within U.S. circles. This question still arises. The [U.S.] administration must have laid down plans and measures to protect its warships. The important point now is that the ships are not Kuwaiti, and any measure to be taken would therefore be American and not Kuwaiti.

[Matar] Kuwait is exposed to the threat of an Iranian attack — this is an assumption, and I know you do not like to answer this kind of question — but if such an attack takes place, are there any U.S. arrangements to protect Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] This subject has nothing to do with the current arrangements; therefore, it would be premature to discuss it. This issue has never been discussed here. However, I can confirm that we basically defend ourselves together with the Gulf states and Arab states in general. If Kuwait is exposed to any threats, there are the Gulf states and the Arab states with which we are linked under the joint defense pact. I stress here that the question of the protection of Kuwait or any other Gulf state is a Gulf responsibility more than an American responsibility.

[Matar] Do you expect Egypt to play a role in this?

[Al-Sabah] Its statements are clear. We are not surprised at the positions of the Arab states in this regard. [Al-Sabah ends]

We went on to discuss the Security Council resolution and the possibility of implementing it. The Kuwaiti ambassador stressed that this is a "responsibility that the council must shoulder." When we recalled that the Security Council and the UN General Assembly have in the past adopted thousands of resolutions on the Middle East and the Iraq-Iran war, none of which have been

implemented, the ambassador said: Each case should be considered separately, but I believe the council is serious about implementing the resolution, especially if this is guaranteed by sending representatives to observe the cease-fire and if the council asks the secretary general to prepare a report within 1 month on the implementation of the resolution. I asked the ambassador about the absence of the Soviet and Chinese foreign ministers from the Security Council's meeting, he replied: This absence certainly has meaning, but the participation of the foreign ministers of other countries has meaning, too. Let us take the positive side rather than the negative one. However, in general, I am not concerned about the presence or absence of foreign ministers, since they have their representatives in the Security Council. It is quite clear that there is an intention to put an end to the war, especially after we have experienced 7 years of unconcern. Concern today has become more serious and effective.

[Matar] Do you see seriousness in the U.S. stand, which calls for ending the war?

[Al-Sabah] Seriousness is represented by the U.S. stand in the Security Council and maneuvers at the international level. We should separate such maneuvers from current investigations of the arms scandal. These were mistakes, and those who made them are being questioned and tried. However, we should not belittle the importance of the U.S. intention to find a solution. The picture has now become clearer than in the past with regard to nations' desire to end this war.

PDRY

Minister Urges Response to General Amnesty Decree

EA030948 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Brother Sa'id Salih Salim, member of the Political Bureau and the minister of state security, has renewed the call to the misled to return to their families to contribute toward the construction of the homeland.

He highly assessed the General Amnesty Decree and the decree extending its validity up to end of 1987. He explained that the issuing of the General Amnesty Decree No 17 reflected the humanitarian aspect of our progressive national regime. He stressed the strength and firmness of the revolutionary experience in our country, which has manifested a humanitarian forgiving spirit with those who were drowned in the wave of political misguidance. To those who realize that they actively participated in the conspiracy and that the General Amnesty Decree encompasses them, despite that, he said, let them return to their families and contribute to the construction of the homeland.

Brother Sa'id Salih Salim said that hundreds of misled persons have responded to the call of the General Amnesty Decree and returned to their families, jobs, and to the exercise of all their rights. Oppressive circumstances and private detentions from those within a minority, conspiratorial, and treacherous clique have prevented others from returning. He pointed out that some information confirmed that there are large numbers who were detained while on their way back to their families and taken to detention camps. Some are also influenced by propaganda aimed at creating doubts about the genuineness of the General Amnesty Decree.

SAUDI ARABIA

Ulema Denounces 'Regrettable' Mecca Clashes

LD041846 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Mina, 4 Aug (SPA) — The council of the most eminent ulema has denounced and condemned the regrettable events staged by some Iranian pilgrims after evening prayers on Friday, 31 July. In a statement issued today, it said this action harms Muslims, pilgrims, and others in this holy land and in this holy month. It is a means to what cannot be praised — the killing of souls, the harassment of people, and other forms of harm and injustice. [passage omitted]

Here is the text of the statement: Praise be to God, the master of all human beings. A good outcome to the pious, and only aggression against the unjust. May God's peace and prayers be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and companions, and on those who find guidance in God and follow his law.

The Council of the Body of the Most Eminent Ulema in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has familiarized itself with the regrettable events staged by some Iranian pilgrims following evening prayers on Friday, 31 July. There were gatherings and a noisy procession, as a result of which the worshippers' exits from their homes and interests were obstructed and traffic was hindered and came to a halt. This led to an intervention by the crowded pilgrims and citizens in an attempt to convince them [the Iranian pilgrims] to vacate the street and disperse the procession. The Iranian pilgrims, however, insisted on completing their chaotic procession, despite all the peaceful and calm attempts by other pilgrims of various nationalities and also by citizens. This led to the eruption of fierce clashes between the Iranians and other pilgrims and citizens, during which hundreds of pilgrims and citizens — men and women — were killed or wounded.

The council condemns this action for the harm it harbors for Muslims, pilgrims, and others in this holy land and in this holy month. This action had the objective of killing souls, harassing people, and other forms of harm and injustice. The council also holds the Iranians responsible for the evils and sedition resulting from their action.

There is no doubt that this action contradicts God's word to those who want to perform the pilgrimage: "The months of the hajj are well-known. If anyone undertakes that duty, then let there be no obscenity, nor wickedness, nor wrangling in the hajj."

It is the duty of every Muslim to abide by the word of God and His Prophet. May God's peace and prayers be upon him, and may he have noble morals and treat his Muslim brothers well.

Almighty God sanctified His noble house and distinguished it from others when He said: "And we made the house, a place of assembly for men, and a place of safety." God threatened

grievous penalty to those who wish to commit profanity when He said: "And any whose purpose is profanity or wrongdoing we will cause to taste a most grievous penalty." Ibn 'Abbas, may God bless him, said: "It is injustice to sanction what God has forbidden — wrongdoing or killing — being unjust toward those who have not wronged you and killing those who did not harm you."

Almighty God has prohibited the harming of believers in his noble book at all times, in any place. Thus, harming them in this secure land while they are performing the rites is undoubtedly a greater sin and a mightier crime. As God has said: "And those who undeservedly vex believing men and women bear a calumny and a glaring sin."

Almighty God explained the legitimacy and benefits of the pilgrimage by saying: "And proclaim the pilgrimage among men. They will come to thee on foot and on every kind of camel, lean on account of journeys through deep and distant mountain highways, so that they witness the benefits provided for them and celebrate the name of God through the appointed days, over the cattle which He has provided for them. Then eat ye thereof and feed the distressed ones in want. Then let them complete the rites prescribed for them, perform their vows, and circumambulate the ancient house. Such is the pilgrimage; whoever honors the sacred rites of God, for him it is good in the sight of his Lord." Until he says: "But shun the abomination of idols, and shun the word that is false." And he says: "Such is his state. And whoever holds in honor the symbols of God, such honor should come truly from the piety of heart."

These are the Almighty's orders and directions to the pilgrims to the ancient house: No obscenities, no fornication, and no disputes during the pilgrimage, and no disrespect to God's sanctuaries and no utterance of false words, but remembering God and respecting His sanctuaries and rites.

From this we can see that the provocative actions of some Iranian pilgrims are against God's orders and directions, according to His Holy Book and according to the sayings of His Prophet.

All Muslim ulema, leaders, and rulers should denounce and condemn these actions so that everyone knows that this violates God's laws and is an appalling action which harms Muslims — whether pilgrims or others — and also harms the demonstrators themselves.

Therefore, the Iranian rulers know that they should stop their pilgrims from such wrongdoings and not encourage them because of the above-mentioned religious evidence, and [word indistinct] meanings and because of its evil consequences.

It should be known that the government of this country, may God guide it, has the duty of preventing such actions and obstructing them with the means it considers suitable. This is in order to protect the Muslim pilgrims and the other citizens from injustices and all the evil consequences which could result from these actions contrary to God's laws.

On this occasion, the council, as it denounces and condemns this incident, asks all pilgrims to show piety; to respect His sanctuaries; to cooperate in good deeds and in piety; to show kindness to each other; to do good to each other; and to avoid anything that could harm their religion or their lives or could distract them from performing the rites in the way God prescribed. God will support His religion, raise its word, improve the situation of Muslims everywhere, guide their leaders, and guide us all in our religion and make us firm in our commitment to it. May God guide the rulers of this country to the good and happiness of the nation, and to means by which they can facilitate the pilgrimage affairs for Muslims. May God reward the rulers of this country for their good deeds, grant them more good, and support the right path by them. God is generous and God's prayers and peace be on His servant the Prophet Muhammad and his family and followers.

[Signed] The Body of the Most Eminent Ulema: 'Abdallah Khayyat, 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Salih, 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Afifi, 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn 'Abdallah ibn Baz, Sulayman ibn 'Ubayd, 'Abd al-Majid Hasan, Ibrahim ibn Muhammad 'Al al-Shaykh, Salih ibn Ghasun, Muhammad ibn Jubayr, Salih ibn Muhammad al-Luhaydan, 'Abuallah ibn Ghadyan, Rashid ibn Hunayn, 'Abdallah ibn Munay', Hasan ibn Ja'far al-'Utmi, 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn 'Abdallah 'Al al-Shaykh, Muhammad Salih al-'Uthaymin, 'Abdallah al-Bassam, and Salih al-Fawzan.

Mecca Sermon Critical of Riots, Urges Sanctity

LD041745 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Sermon by an unidentified speaker at the Grand Mosque of Mecca on 'Id al-Adha — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] God is great! God is great! [passage omitted] One characteristic of this house — a major distinguishing feature — of the custodians of this house and of the guests of this house, is represented in the true saying by God Almighty: Remember, we made the house a place of assembly for men and a place of safety. [Koranic quotation] It has remained in the protection and custody of God, challenging time with fortitude and safety. [passage omitted]

To work to disrupt the security of the pilgrims, to spread unrest among them, to create sedition among them, and to stir up troubles around them is incompatible with the sanctity of the house and with the security of this house. Because God has spoken to the people of faith, calling upon them with the call of faith to avoid neglecting the sanctity of the rites of this house at all times. He has said: O ye who believe, violate not the sanctity of the symbols of God or of the sacred month. What would be the position of those who did not glorify the rights of God or the sacred month?

The duty of every Muslim is to contribute toward the creation of a safe and calm atmosphere for the pilgrims of this house to perform their rituals. They must also stand between the hands of their Lord — standing, bowing, and prostrating themselves — in submission and safety, completely cut off from all preoccupations.

Almighty God has even prohibited mere argument, so that the sanctity of the time and the place may be exalted, that there may be devotion to worship in the place where the sublimity of the occasion lies and where an atmosphere of calm must be provided for the guests of God. God has warned those who disobey this and who harbor evil intentions toward this house: And those whose purpose is profanity or wrongdoing, we will cause to taste a most grievous penalty.

No faithful person can accept what some of the pilgrims have done: inciting trouble, creating disturbances and sedition, and terrifying the faithful who enjoy safety in the environs of this house. And no one can accept the resulting death of innocent souls. No faithful person who appreciates the sanctity of this house and who knows the level of its holiness would accept it, no matter what the intentions and objectives might be. What would be this rejection if the intentions were suspicious and the objectives were foreign?

It is the duty of every faithful person who visited this pure country — hoping for forgiveness and blessing and aspiring for a pilgrimage accepted by God — to avoid whatever disturbs the security of the faithful and their worship, be it loud noise, argument, or raising voices in a manner unbefitting to the place. Do not violate the rites of God or the sacred month if you are true believers. The pure house of God — its safe courtyard and its great gathering — must be cause for the consolidation of relations and the strengthening of contacts in the blessing and acceptance of God. [passage omitted]

King Receives Kuwaiti Defense Minister, Others
LD041554 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Excerpt] The custodian of the two holy mosques — may God support him — has received Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah and an accompanying delegation. He also received His Highness Shaykh Salman ibn Hamad ibn 'Isa al-Khalifah [name as heard]; His Excellency Sa'id ibn Ahmad al-Shanfari, Omani minister of petroleum and minerals; and His Highness 'Abadallah ibn Mohammad ibn Sif al-Sharqi [name as heard] and an accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

King Fahd To Receive Pilgrimage Leaders 5 Aug
LD041953 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 04 Aug 87

[Text] God willing, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, on Wednesday 5 August will hold the annual large ceremony which he, may God protect him, holds on that date every year.

During this ceremony, the custodian of the two holy mosques will receive leaders of pilgrimage delegations and the Kingdom's guests, pilgrims, Muslim ulema, ambassadors of Arab and Islamic states, officials representing all sectors in charge of serving the guests of God's sacred house, and citizens who will congratulate him, may God protect him, on the occasion of the blessed 'Id. SPA has learned that the custodian of the two holy mosques and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz — crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard — will deliver a speech tomorrow in which they will review affairs of (?our) nation and issues related to the Arab and Islamic world and the Kingdom's stances on these issues.

Communique No 2,766 Notes Combat 3-4 Aug
JN041632 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1600 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,766 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 4 August 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our men, who are struggling for the sake of God, the people, and the homeland, have celebrated the blessed 'Id al-Adha, imploring God to preserve for our Armed Forces President Saddam Husayn — the founder of their doctrine, the builder of their strength, and the mastermind of their victories. In these blessed days, we fortunately bring our glorious Arab nation, our great people, and our Armed Forces glad tidings of a new victory in the national military industrial field. With God's help, and thanks to our enlightened leader's sound instructions, the Iraqi people's skill, and the persistent effort of the military industry's strugglers, we were able to produce an Iraqi surface-to-surface missile.

Our Armed Forces, which are provided with all elements for superiority and victory by their leadership, pledge to God, to the people, and to their leader that they will utilize all this potential in the most effective manner to achieve our Arab nation's and our great Iraqi people's lofty objectives; namely, to defeat the Khomeyniite aggressors and to attain our rights and peace in accordance with God's will. It is God who supports us.

The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Our daring helicopters launched 20 combat sorties against the Khomeyniite scoundrels, inflicting new losses on their personnel, hardware, and weapons. Our helicopters then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. The valiant Al-'Amiq Port force spotted four enemy boats, pounded them, and forced them to flee after damaging one of them.

3. One of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector killed two scoundrels, wounded others, and destroyed three ammunition dumps and two observation posts.

4. One enemy boat loaded with ammunition was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 August 1987

AL-TADAMUN Interviews Envoy to U.S. on Gulf War
PM041319 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
1 Aug 87 pp 9-11

[Interview with Nizar Hamdun, ambassador to the United States, by Khalil Matar in Washington, D.C.; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] [Matar] You must have heard Iran state that if Iraq strikes Iranian ships, then Iran will in turn attack U.S. (Kuwaiti) vessels. Has Iran now thrown the ball into Iraq's court?

[Hamdun] This is an old Iranian claim: Iraq strikes Iranian ships and ports, as well as vessels that come to Iranian ports. Therefore, Iran attacks ships in international waters and strikes states that have no military involvement in the conflict. Iraq does not have any ships in the Gulf. Therefore, Iran's logic is rejected. There are certain circles which regard this logic as "practical thinking" in the sense that if Iraq were to ease the pressure there would then be no excuse for Iran to use. This thinking is, of course, rejected by Iraq, which increases or decreases strikes according to political and military plans for confrontation. Sometimes it supports operations and at other times it transfers them to another level. However, Iraq possesses a right as well as a principle that cannot be abandoned; that is, our right to reply to Iran so that we can inflict suffering on them. This is a war, one that Iran chose to launch, and not an ordinary game. This is a comprehensive war in every aspect. As a matter of principle, Iraq cannot accept this. We are, of course, making efforts to convince many circles, public opinion, and others of Irans's false deception which seeks to direct blame against Iraq. It is Iran that is making the threats. Iraq is simply exercising its natural right within the terms of the conflict, while Iran makes threats outside this framework.

[Matar] Is it true that the United States has put pressure on Iraq to end the tanker war?

[Hamdun] No pressure has been put on us in this regard, be it Arab or foreign. All parties, especially official and government circles, are aware of Iraq's position. They know Iraq's argument in this regard; namely, its right to use all means available to confront Iran. This war is comprehensive; therefore, all Iraq's capabilities must be utilized, especially that of the Iraqi Air Force, which possesses the ability to reach all points on the Iranian coast and to destroy Iranian economic installations. No country would abandon the means that give it an advantage in a war such as this.

[Matar] Do you see any possibility that Iranian decisionmaking, which has allowed the war to continue for 7 and 1/2 years, will create a confrontation with U.S. forces?

[Hamdun] It is difficult to be absolutely certain about this. However, I would doubt that Iran is capable of such a confrontation. We have a great deal of experience with Iran. It employs harsh rhetoric and methods with a view to issuing threats and blackmailing rather than actually expressing practical and effective pressures according to considered calculations. [passage omitted]

[Matar] So, is the United States prepared to back down without a confrontation, taking into consideration their dealings with Iran on the hostages being held in Lebanon?

[Hamdun] My feeling is that in Washington, especially during this week, it will not be easy to judge the policies of the large powers. However, the U.S. position so far seems to be rigid. Information I possess indicates that the U.S. Administration has plans on how to respond in expectation of a possible confrontation with Iran and within the framework of a possible Iranian strike at U.S. vessels.

[Matar] Do you mean plans drawn up to launch a military strike?

[Hamdun] Certainly. There are integral plans on how to handle such a situation should it occur.

[Matar] Do you believe that the United States is domestically and politically capable of launching a war in view of the situation it is experiencing today?

[Hamdun] I doubt if there will be a war in a comprehensive sense. We are referring to strikes in response to strikes; namely, limited military strikes.

[Matar] Do you consider the U.S. decision to fly U.S. flags on Kuwaiti vessels to be a position adopted in support of one party against another in this conflict?

[Hamdun] No, of course not. We in Iraq did not regard this question, or any of the other policies, in this way at all. These matters were interpreted by experts abroad as somehow favoring Iraq. There are known U.S. interests, declared ones at least, to end the war and to bring some stability to the region, which is considered one of the world's most important oil-producing areas. Within this context and that of the Iranian threat to the Gulf states — which are small states — we believe that the [reflagging] operation will in one way or another serve U.S. interests. It will also serve to confront Khomeyni's threat to the Arab states in the Gulf. Therefore, this cannot be interpreted as favoring Iraq. Iraq does not receive arms or military aid. The U.S. political position is an appeal to bring this war to an end. Iraq certainly is one of the two warring countries that calls for peace. Therefore, Iraq is politically closer [to the U.S. position], but this cannot be termed leaning. This is a position with regard to the most dangerous conflict this century has witnessed.

[Matar] Do you believe that there is a degree of seriousness on the part of the Soviets in proportion to that of the United States, as represented by the reflagging, that will allow moves to be made within the Security Council to end the conflict, taking into consideration the absence of the Soviet and Chinese foreign ministers from the meeting?

[Hamdun] In general I believe that the great powers, especially the United States and the Soviet Union, are serious and prepared to make such moves. Comparing one power to another is not an easy task since there are strategic and regional calculations for both countries that are difficult to make. These calculations are for the purpose of determining the extent of responsiveness regarding this conflict. The issue of attendance or absence [from the Security Council] is governed by the sensitivities between these countries. We believe that this issue is not dependent on the initial position taken toward the war or the need to secure from the Security Council a resolution similar in terms of form and timing to the one that has been issued. [passage omitted]

[Matar] In other words, can there be Soviet-U.S. cooperation toward ending the war?

[Hamdun] This is possible. We in Iraq have always believed that it is possible and have encouraged such a move. Both countries, in the short term at least, have an interest in bringing an end to the war and the current unstable situation, whose developments are difficult to predict. Consequently, the great powers find it difficult to deal with such a fragile and unpredictable situation.

[Matar] Is it not possible to claim that it is in the great powers' interest for this war to continue in view of the fact that it has no victor?

[Hamdun] That is something else. Day after day the great powers come to the conclusion that this war is explosive and cannot remain within restricted limits. It should therefore be prevented from escalating in order to avoid an explosive and unpredictable situation that places them in an exceptional and tense position. The only way to eliminate this possibility is to end the war. This has become more evident than before. The war is daily acquainting the large powers with new facts about its nature and dangers. In the past, there was either no concern about its continuation or encouragement of one kind or another was given for its continuation on the grounds that it did not constitute a serious threat to the interests of these countries. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Is it possible to say that these convictions were part of the U.S. motives for improving relations with Syria, so that Syria will exert some sort of pressure on Iran? Do you believe this to be true?

[Hamdun] So far there are no tangible indications of a change in Syria's stand toward the war or the question of relations with Iran. There are some words and promises that Hafiz al-Asad makes to many other parties to gain time. He also does this to secure better opportunities for the Syrian regime to maneuver regionally, to restore a certain regional role, to secure the aid he urgently needs, or to confront the crisis he now faces with regard to the hostages in Lebanon and his problems with Europe. There are attempts by Arab parties to reconcile Iraq and Syria on the basis of Syria changing its stance toward the war. However, there has so far been no tangible response from the Syrian regime in this regard.

[Matar] The U.S. position was that Syria could alter its positions and exert pressure on Iran.

[Hamdun] I do not want to discuss U.S. motives, since I am not knowledgeable about them. In general, however, the question of a break in Iranian-Syrian relations is expected to arise any day. The reason for this is the lack of solid, principled, and logically acceptable grounds for establishing a relationship between the two regimes. Their relationship was originally based on mutual interests; that is, weakening Iraq and playing a regional role at the expense of all other states and the Arab people. This matter cannot continue indefinitely. The continuation of Iran's failure in the war with Iraq must in the end have a negative effect. Arab feelings are running high day after day, and Syria's position is unacceptable since it is not a pan-Arab one. Hafiz al-Asad knows that the Baghdad summit's decision to grant financial aid to Syria will end next year. Therefore, one of the factors in his calculations is that if this period ends, he will not be able to automatically obtain the agreed sums as he now does. Also, if he wishes to request aid from other Arab states after a cutoff, he must then pay the price for this; namely, acceptable political

positions and positions that are in line with the principle of Arab solidarity.

[Matar] But would Iran not be able to make up some of this aid?

[Hamdun] Iran is in an atrocious economic situation. It is mainly concentrating on war production. Many problems have arisen in the past concerning the oil that Iran used to supply to Syria. Iran is still demanding payment of nearly $2.5 billion in debts, which constitutes additional economic and financial pressure on Iran. Therefore, it is not known how long Iran can bear the consequences of this pressure.

[Matar] Has a solution matured? Has the time now come?

[Hamdun] The time has come to adopt a position toward ending the conflict. This might take 1 month or longer. However, one must consider that the war has entered its final stages from an international viewpoint and in terms of the influence that can be exerted. Also, as far as the war itself is concerned, the conflict has entered its final stages in view of the military operations that have proven that the military option is no longer viable and that Iran cannot continue the war forever. Practically speaking, Iran cannot achieve a victory of any value. Furthermore, its economic gamble on Iraq's collapse has failed. Therefore, the existence of international opinion in its present form and the development of Arab opinion, which has progressed more than in the past — as proved by the pressure being exerted by many Arab parties [on Iran] for it to alter its stand — are encouraging. We are actually in the war's final stages. The war itself might continue, perhaps for years, but its mode is that of the final stages.

MIG-21 Incident Possible Syrian 'Debt' to Iran

JN310823 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Jul p 2

["Stand" column: "Persistence With the Deviationist Line"]

[Text] The Syrian Air Force was at it again yesterday as it violated our international airspace. The Foreign Ministry informed the Arab League Secretariat of this incident and urged that a strong protest be lodged with the Syrian regime.

This was not the first time that Syrian aircraft violated Iraqi airspace. Since the unjust Iranian aggression against our country began, the Syrian Air Force has consistently violated our airspace as well as our land borders. This has been done despite repeated warnings communicated to the Syrian Government through the Arab League Secretariat.

The gravity of the Syrian regime's behavior becomes clearer when we consider the fact that the deliberate violation of our airspace took place under the circumstances of war and that the Syrian plane flew too close to one of our key industrial installations. Such behavior was part of the public alliance between the Tehran and Damascus regimes, with the latter still adhering to and insistent on its deviationist, treasonous line and on allying itself with the Iranian enemy. In addition, this is not the first time that the Damascus regime has sought to extend help to its ally, the defeated Khomeyni regime. It continues to provide various forms of assistance and facilities to the Khomeyni regime in its blatant aggression against our country. Treasonous and treacherous acts conducted by the Damascus regime throughout the war are still fresh in our memory.

The Syrian regime is apparently trying to drive home to its allies, the rulers of Tehran, that it is still interested in analliance, that it will remain in their trench, and that it will continue its partnership with Tehran in the aggression against Iraq. Indeed, it is possible that the Syrian regime through this incident may have attempted either to repay a debt it owed the Iranian regime or to make a down payment on a seedy bilateral deal in the Lebanese arena.

Coming as it did just a few days after Security Council Resolution No 598, this provocative behavior can only be interpreted as open encouragement for the Khomeyni regime to pursue the war against the will of the international community, which unanimously favors a halt to hostilities and a comprehensive, just settlement, particularly since the resolution urged restraint by all international parties.

Not only does the Syrian regime's behavior contradict the principles and bonds of a pan-Arab affiliation and a shared destiny, but it also runs counter to international norms and conventions. Nevertheless, the Syrian regime must take the blame for the consequences of its Air Force violation of our international borders.

Spokesman Denies No Cooperation on Pollard

TA041734 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The Knesset Secret Services Subcommittee will this week begin drawing up the secret part of its report on the Pollard affair. And, in another development, official circles in Jerusalem have denied a report that Israel has ceased cooperating with the United States on the Pollard investigation. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] The Secret Services Subcommittee reconvenes under its chairman, Abba Eban, following accusation by one of its members, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, that pure laziness has delayed its work for months since the publication of the nonclassified part of the report. It dealt with the question of ministerial responsibility. The secret part has to do with the lessons to be drawn from the Pollard affair, and the changes which the subcommittee will recommend in the service services and the government's apparatus for controlling them. This morning Voice of Israel's Washington correspondent reported that Israel is no longer cooperating with the United States Justice Department in the Pollard investigation. He said the Justice Department wished to question certain Israeli officials and to see certain documents, but lawyers representing Israel refused even to accept the lists, the report said. Here in Jerusalem, the Cabinet secretary said: First of all, Israel is represented in Washington by the embassy, not by lawyers; secondly, the report that Israel is no longer cooperating with the U.S. and the Pollard investigation is nonsense, the Cabinet secretary said. However, I was unable to obtain clear answers on whether Israel is or is not allowing the Justice Department to question the officials it seeks. Hanan Bar-On, the former assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry, told me the report about the list of names and documents simply does not make sense, but he would not elaborate. In the next few days the Israeli Government will be appointing an official to take charge of contacts with the U.S. on the Pollard affair. [end recording]

Eban Committee To Submit Report

TA051053 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Subcommittee which dealt with the Pollard affair today decided to submit the classified report on this affair by the end of September. The subcommittee made this decision in the wake of public criticism leveled at it for having refrained so far from writing the classified report, which is to include recommendations on how similar cases can be avoided in the future.

Sources View Iraqi Missiles as 'Direct' Threat

TA050805 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Aug 87 p 2

[Report by Gay Bekhor, Ilan Kfir, Alex Fishman, and Paris-based correspondent Dan Gil'adi]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] "Israel views the development of long-range missiles in Iraq as a direct strategic threat and a new stage in the armament race in the Middle East." This was stated by political sources in Jerusalem yesterday. For many years Israel and the West have known of Iraq's intention and ability to produce a surface-to-surface missile. One assessment is that the timing of the announcement on this missile is aimed at issuing a direct threat to Iran in view of the Iraqi inferiority on the Persian Gulf front and Baghdad's fear of a new offensive in the Basra area. Another assessment is that the timing is linked to reports on experiments with the Israeli intermediate-range Jericho missile.

At the same time, elements in Israel have exercised a great deal of caution in referring to the pictures of the Iraqi missile in flight, as shown on Jordan television. They claim that it is not yet clear whether the development of the missile has reached the operational stage.

Iraq already has the Soviet surface-to-surface Scud missile, which has a range of 500 km. Sources in Israel have emphasized that in producing missiles on its own Iraq will be freed from its dependence on the Soviet Union and will gain a great deal of strategic independence. According to these sources, this may also compensate the Iraqis for their aerial inferiority vis-a-vis Israel: "It is natural that in its geostrategic condition, Iraq will make an effort to develop long-range weapons aimed at distant targets in both Iran and Israel." [passage omitted]

Chirac Denies Offer To Rebuild Iraqi Reactor

TA050433 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac denies having offered to rebuild the Iraqi nuclear reactor destroyed by the Israeli Air Force 6 years ago. Chirac says that the letter he sent to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, which was published by *Le Canard Enchaine*, involves Iraqi payments for French weapons, not nuclear reactors. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that in a telephone call to Israel's Ambassador in Paris, 'Ovadya Sofer, Chirac said that when he took office as prime minister he undertook not to renew the nuclear reactor deal with Iraq. He added that no negotiations have been held with Baghdad on this issue since then.

Hungary Seeks Relations on 'Extremely Low Level'

TA041124 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 4 Aug 87 p 1

[Report by political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] Negotiations with Hungary on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries have not ended on a positive note as a result of Hungary's inclination toward opening relations on an extremely low level — not even on the level of an interest office, as was the case with Poland, but rather in the form of a trade delegation as a substitute for diplomatic relations.

Poland was the first country willing to open an interest office; Hungary agreed to follow suit, but on a lower level.

The Hungarians shrank from a higher level of relations due to reports published in Israel regarding the negotiations in Vienna between Hungarian representatives and Yesha'yahu 'Anug, assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry.

Meanwhile, some people in the Foreign Ministry maintain that a move to open interest offices and news agencies or to exchange trade delegations does not bring us any nearer to diplomatic relations with Hungary; on the contrary, settling for a low-level representation only delays the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Rabin Expresses Regret Over UNIFIL Incident

TA041343 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has expressed regret for the incident that occurred yesterday in the security strip of southern Lebanon in which two UNIFIL soldiers from Norway were wounded. He said that the IDF is doing all it can to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, but there is no certainty that it will be possible to avoid them completely. He noted that the reality of the situation is that the IDF and the South Lebanese Army are stationed on one side and terrorist elements on the other, with UNIFIL soldiers stuck in the middle.

Regarding the situation in the Gaza Strip, the defense minister said that the IDF will continue to take lawful measures to combat terrorism. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that Mr Rabin made these remarks while in Julis this afternoon, visiting the Druze spiritual leader Shaykh Amin Tarif to mark the festival of the sacrifice ['Id al-Adha]. He was accompanied by Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff; and Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command.

Norwegian Envoy Protests

TA051145 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] The UNIFIL Command in southern Lebanon has stated that UNIFIL gave the IDF prior notice of the presence of the Norwegian patrol which was fired upon by the IDF yesterday. UNIFIL affirmsthat the IDF had precise information on the route of the patrol. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the IDF will today complete its investigation into the incident in which two Norwegian soldiers were wounded. The story is continuing to cause repercussions in Norway, and Norwegian press teams were present in southern Lebanon today.

Norway's ambassador to Israel submitted a protest to the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry today over the incident in which two Norwegian soldiers were wounded. Our political correspondent 'Odeb Ben-'Ami reports that the ambassador met with Assistant Director General Yesha'yahu 'Anug. 'Anug explained that the matter is under investigation and expressed hope that such incidents will not recur.

Lebanon Coordinator Comments

TA041722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, said Israel is not looking for incidents with UNIFIL and certainly not with the Norwegian contingent, which is doing its job faithfully. He told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the incident, in which two UNIFIL soldiers were wounded, should be viewed as a closed matter after the commander of the Northern Command apologized to the UNIFIL commander.

[Begin recording] [Lubrani] This has been a very regrettable incident. It occured in the Kawkaba region, which is a very sensitive one and plagued with problems.

[Tal] What do you mean by a sensitive area?

[Lubrani] A sensitive area in the sense that we very much fear something bad will develop there concerning terrorist activity. This has been an incident...[changes thought] We must also take into account that it occured at a very sensitive period of time. We are in quite a state of alert to all sorts of possibilities in this period, at the end of Ramadan, which is generally a time marked by unrest. It is reasonable to assume that during this time someone will try to make publicity and propaganda capital [preceding word in English], and that is why the incident happened. I hear that the commander of the Northern Command has spoken with the UNIFIL commander and apologized, and I think this incident is over.

[Tal] What is being done to prevent such incidents with the United Nations?

[Lubrani] It seems to me that everything the human hand is capable of doing to prevent them is being done. We are not looking for any incidents with UNIFIL, certainly not incidents with the Norwegian contingent, which is doing its job faithfully. I do not think that such incidents occur often; when they do occur, we all regret it. [end recording]

PRC Retracts Agreement To Admit Tourists

TA041347 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
4 Aug 87 pp 1, 11

[Report by New York-based correspondent Eli Tavor and Gad Li'or]

[Excerpts] There have been further developments in the seesaw of relations with China: The PRC has retracted its agreement to allow Israeli passport holders to comprise up to 20 percent of organized tours of U.S. tourists to China. At the same time, it has been reported that China has purchased Israeli medals stamped by the Israeli Government's Medals and Coins Company. [passage omitted]

The excuse used by the Chinese for canceling the agreement with a U.S. tourism company was the fact that it was published by *Yedi'ot Aharonot*. The Chinese ambassador in Washington himself informed the company's owners that following the publica-

tion, it had been decided to suspend the implementation of the agreement regarding the granting of visas to Israeli tourists visiting China.

On the other hand, it has been reported that China recently purchased Israeli medals stamped by the Israeli Government's Medals and Coins Company. Among other things, the Chinese purchased the Independence Day, Jericho, and Exodus medals.

This was related yesterday by Eli'ezer Shiloni, director general of the Israeli Government's Medals and Coins Company, on the occasion of the appearance of the company's annual balance sheet for the past year.

Histadrut To Continue Import-Export Trade With RSA

TA050720 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Aug 87 p 1

[Report by Ya'aqov Friedler]

[Text] The Histadrut-owned Koor concern is continuing its business with South Africa, and is "not about to stop the import and export trade" with that country, managing director Yesha'yahu Gavish told the press yesterday.

He said that the Soltam factory had stopped selling arms to South Africa long ago, but Israel was continuing to buy over a million tons of South African coal and exporting a range of Israeli goods to that country. Koor itself was managing the import of large quantities of steel as well as other goods and exporting Israeli products to South Africa, he said.

He declined to comment on the charges raised this week by MK [Knesset Member] Ran Kohen (Citizens Rights Movement) about the South African connection of its Iskoor subsidiary pending an official reply from the Histadrut Secretary General.

Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motions

TA051248 Tel Aviv IDF in Hebrew 1230 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] A short time ago the Knesset struck down the no- confidence motions submitted by the opposition parties. Our Knesset correspondent Yinon Shenkar reports that the motions were defeated by a majority of coalition votes. The motions were raised by HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], the Progressive List for Peace, and KAKH — all of them on the issue of Deputy Minister Deqel's remarks regarding the transfer [of Arabs from Israel]. MAPAM also submitted a no-confidence motion on the agricultural crisis.

Espionage Affair Disclosed; Two Convicted

TA051049 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] Permission was given today to make public an espionage and treason affair which took place in Israel last year. Three people, including Yosef Ben-Avraham from Jerusalem, were put on trial on charges of having stolen and sold to hostile elements a classified police file and other documents on terrorists and hostile terrorist activity. Two of the people indicted in the affair were convicted and their appeal turned down. The third defendant, Yosef Ben-Avraham from Jerusalem, was acquitted after a key prosecution witness changed his testimony. The state has appealed against Ben-Avraham's acquittal and his demand for compensation was rejected. In the wake of an agreement between Ben-Avraham's attorney and the State Attorney's Office, Ben-Avraham withdrew an appeal to the High Court of Justice. The registrar of the Supreme Court then instructed that the order banning publication remain valid, except for the announcement issued by the State Attorney's Office which we have just cited.

Peres Meets With Frayj Prior to Jordan Visit

TA050730 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Aug 87 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Benny Morris]

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj met yesterday with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to discuss the Middle East peace process in advance of a scheduled trip to Jordan this week.

Frayj described the hour-long meeting at the Foreign Ministry as "an exchange of views" on the political and diplomatic situation in the region, and specifically on the planned Israeli water-drilling project in the Bethlehem area. Frayj said he supported Peres's initiative to promote the peace process through an international conference, but added he was carrying no message with him to Jordan.

Sources in the Foreign Ministry however did not discount the possibility that Frayj is carrying a message from Peres to King Husayn. The thrust of that message is likely to be that Husayn should stick by his commitment to negotiate with Israel until the internal situation in Israel changes in a manner that would enable Israel to participate in an international peace conference.

Rabin Says Jordan River Labor's 'Security Border'

TA041109 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Aug 87 p A2

[Report by Yehoshu'a Bitzur]

[Text] "Whoever thinks that Israel can sign a peace agreement that does not specify the Jordan River as its security border is a fool. In any peace agreement with a neighboring Arab state, the Labor Party's security border would be along the Jordan River." This was stated by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday in a speech to a mainstream Labor Party convention in Tel Aviv.

The mainstream is actually made up of the Labor Party's hawkish wing, which has banded together to counter the leftist and dovish line in the party. The convention was attended by Knesset Speaker and Knesset Member [MK] Shlomo Hilel; MK's Simcha Dinitz, Aharon Nahmias, and Eliyahu Speiser; as well as district secretaries and more than 100 party activists.

The defense minister also stated that Israel will not uproot Jewish settlements located in the heart of Samaria. However, he added

that after a political settlement is reached, the residents of these settlements will be under Jordanian rule, although they will be able to maintain their link to Israel. Rabin compared this to the situation of the 80,000 Arab residents in East Jerusalem, who live under Israeli sovereignty but maintain their link to Jordan.

Rabin criticized the Gush Emunim settlements in the heart of Samaria, saying that they are an assemblage of neighborhoods and cities used for sleeping purposes alone and do not contribute to the country's security. He expressed his opinion that there is no controversy with regard to the fact that Jerusalem and its environs, as well as Ma'ale Adummim, will remain under Israeli sovereignty. On the other hand, he maintained that Alfe Menashe and Ari'el do not contribute to Israel's security.

This was Rabin's reaction to the sharp criticism leveled by Yaron Ran, the secretary of the Ma'ale Adummim Labor Party branch, who complained about the enormous gap between the declarations of the Labor Party heads and the actual settlement activity.

Rabin claimed that the preferable way to conduct negotiations with an Arab state is through direct talks. Under present conditions the best way to proceed is to enter negotiations with Jordan through an international conference.

West Bank Agricultural Marketing Body Established

TA031053 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Aug 87 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] A federation of all the agricultural marketing organizations was established in the West Bank yesterday — the first body of its kind. This is a pro-Jordanian organization headed by Jordanian Parliament member Tahsin al-Faris. Brigadier General Efrayim Sne, the head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria, yesterday granted Al-Faris the Israeli license for his organization.

Our correspondent says that until recently Jordan had objected to the establishment of such an umbrella organization in the West Bank and had foiled all attempts by Israel to set up such groups. However, Jordan has now changed its mind and has recently begun cooperating with Israel to counter PLO influence. It has been taking action to establish umbrella organizations with clear pro- Jordanian affiliation in the West Bank to push the PLO-supporting organizations to the sidelines.

Our correspondent points out that the Hebron Hills Area Village Leagues have not joined the federation, so Hebron has no representation in the body. A few days ago, the pro-Jordanian daily *Al-Nahar* published a clarification in which Jordanian sympathizers announced that in fact they are not cooperating with the Area Village Leagues.

Palestinians Permitted to Settle in West Bank

TA041520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Brigadier General Efrayim Sne, head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria, has given approval for 350 Palestinians to settle in Judaea and Samaria within the framework of family unification. This gesture was decided on in honor of the Feast of the Immolation ['Id al-Adha], which began today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this is an unprecedented figure for such a short period of time. Since the beginning of this year the Civilian Administration has permitted 700 people to return to Judaea and Samaria, compared with 1,000 for all of last year.

Gaza Curfew Being Lifted; Investigations Proceed

TA041729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip is now being lifted. The roads to the Gaza district will be opened at 0300. Gaza fishermen will also be able to sail in the sea again. However, the security forces will continue their efforts to capture the murderer of Captain Ron Tal.

New Date Set for Governmnet Decision on Lavi

TA050500 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Excerpt] A new date has been set for the government's decision on the fate of the Lavi: It is now 16 August, this after the government put off the meeting several times while the prime minister sought to get reevaluations and cost-production proposals from Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]; but the IAI reportedly presented its findings to the premier 2 weeks ago. [passage omitted]

Parliament Continues Supplementary Budget Debate
JN010702 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Aug 87 p 3

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman — The Upper House of Parliament on Thursday referred a controversial budget supplement law to the 1986 budget to its financial committee for discussion and approval. The decision followed a heated debate in which some senators raised questions over the constitutional legitimacy of the government's expenditure of JD [Jordanian dinars] 140 million beyond the 1986 budget without prior parliamentary approval.

The government's step has sparked a debate in both Houses of Parliament, but the lower House approved the measure last week following a pledge by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i not to issue any budget supplements without a parliamentary consent.

The most ardent criticism was voiced by Senator Mudar Badran who suggested the issue be referred to the Supreme Council to decide the constitutional legitimacy of the government's step.

According to Article 122 of the Jordan Constitution, the Supreme Council is authorised to provide a final interpretation of the constitution's articles if a disagreement arises and only if asked by either the government or the majority of one of the two Houses. The nine-member Supreme Council, headed by the Senate Speaker, includes three senators, appointed by the House, and five judges from the Supreme Court.

Mr. Badran's suggestion, however, faced strong opposition by a number of senators who argued that the budget supplement should be referred to the House's financial committee for discussion and approval.

But Mr. Badran persisted with his suggestion on the basis that the House should find out whether the government's step was constitutional before it proceeds with its discussion for approval. "By referring it to the financial committee, we are actually accepting it as a constitutional step and that we still do not know," he said.

Senator Jum'ah Hammad tried to offer a compromise by suggesting that the budget supplement be referred to both the Houses' legal and financial committees "which would [be] required to decide on its constittional legitimacy."

Mr. Badran again refused the compromise proposal, saying the House's committees were not empowered to provide interpretation for the constitution's articles.

In general and unlike the debate of the Lower House last week, the senators did not directly criticise the government's "excessive spending" and instead focused their debate on the more general constitutional right of the government to issue and apply draft laws without a prior parliamentary consent.

During last week's session as number of deputies opened fire on what they referred to "as excessive government expenditure" which had compelled it to increase the country's dependence on foreign loans. Al-Karak Deputy Riyad al-Nawaysah went as far as accusing the government of following an economic policy "which would put the country under the heavy burden of foreign debt."

During the discussions of the fiscal budgets of 1986 and 1987, a number of deputies warned that Jordan's growing dependence on foreign debt would jeopardise the country's economic stability and political sovereignty.

Despite the deputies' strong opposition, the Lower House finally approved the budget supplement following Mr. al-Rifa'i's pledge to seek their prior approval in the future and his suggestion that a joint committee from both the legislative and executive branches be formed to study "supplementary budgets."

Mr. al-Rifa'i's proposal, which was welcomed by the deputies, followed his explanation that the supplement to the 1986 budget was issued "to rectify financial constraints which resulted from the losses incurred by a number of shareholding companies in the previous years." Well-informed sources told the *Jordan Times* that around 40 projects, founded in the boom years of the seventies, had run into serous financial problems.

The observers noted that Mr. al-Rifa'i's step has succeeded in defusing the tension which had prevailed among the deputies and consequently secured the approval of the Lower House for the budget's supplements.

But as it appeared on Thursday, the government's suggestion could not redress the basic constitutional questions involved, according to some senators.

"The suggested committee is not authorised to provide any constitutional interpretations and therefore the issue should be referred to the Supreme Council," insisted Mr. Badran.

Despite Mr. Badran's arguments, his suggestion, which secured only five votes, was defeated, and the draft budget supplement was referrd to the House Financial Committee for discussion and approval.

Mr. Badran, however, was expected to pursue his suggestion when the committee submits its recommentations back to the House for discussion.

Ironically, some deputies noted during last week's session that the government has repeatedly extended the budgets' expenditures without prior parliamentary consent. Mr. Badran, a former prime minister, conceded to this and argued that the constitutional legitimacy of such steps should be verified in order to put an end to the debate once and for all.

The government's pledge to seek parliamentary approval for future budget supplements was not enough, he said. "We need to lay a basis which could regulate government's authority to apply draft laws, and particularly those concerned with spending," he said. "This can be only done by the Supreme Council, which can provide the final constitutional interpretation on the issue," Mr. Badran told the *Jordan Times* following the session.

Syrian Defense Minister Visits West Beirut
NC051439 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1415 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] Major General Mustafa Talas, Syrian defense minister, has been in West Beirut since last night. He lunched today in the Summerland Hotel with Minister Nabih Birri, Marwan Hamadah, Akram Shuhayyib, Brigadier General 'Ali Hammdu, Lieutenant Colonel Dirgham Yunis, and several senior Syrian officers.

UK Weekly Interviews Foreign Ministry Official
PM041401 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
31 Jul 87 pp 14-16

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Fu'ad al-Turk by William Dahir; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] *Al-Hawadith*: The Soviet ambassador visited you three times recently. These visits were of interest to observers, prompting them to believe that something extraordinary lay behind them or that you were planning something with the Soviets.

Could you explain to us the truth behind these visits and what was discussed during them? Did [Soviet Ambassador] Kolotusha convey any important messages? Consequently, did you request from him anything specific with regard to the Lebanese question?

Al-Turk: My meetings with the Soviet ambassador were held as part of the constant consultations between us and between our two foreign ministries via the Soviet Embassy in Beirut. The Soviet Union is a superpower and a friendly country that occupies a prominent position in international decisionmaking. Obviously we must maintain constant contacts and consultations. As for recent meetings, they dealt primarily with developments in the region in view of Soviet-U.S. meetings, especially the meeting not so long ago between Vladimir Polyakov and his counterpart Richard Murphy. Of course, priority at these meetings was given to issues like the international conference for peace in the Middle East and the Iraq-Iran war. We exchanged information, analyses, and viewpoints in this regard. As for Lebanon, I believe that the situation concerns us more than others because, in my opinion, Lebanon must convey its requirements to the international decisionmakers and to the international community in general.

I believe that now, especially in view of the present situation, we must concentrate on liberating the south from the Israeli occupation. If we achieve this objective, we will have taken a major step toward resolving the Lebanese crisis as a whole. At the same time, we will have provided major assistance toward resolving the crisis in the entire region, since the south is, in my opinion, the fundamental key to a solution for the Lebanese problem. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Are we to understand from this that you informed the Soviet ambassador of a Lebanese position that separates the Lebanese problem from the Middle East problem?

Al-Turk: This is an old Lebanese position which we have already stated and conveyed to [UN Under Secretary General] Mr M. Goulding when he came to the region to study the positions of the countries concerned with an international peace conference. Our position focused on five points.

The first point was the initial agreement to attend the conference. The second point was that our attendance and participation in the conference should not link the Lebanese problem to that of the Middle East because Resolution 242 does not concern Lebanon in terms of territories. No Lebanese territories were under occupation when Resolution 242 was issued. Resolution 242 concerns us in respect of the section dealing with the future of the Palestinian people. Thus, since we have in Lebanon nearly half a million Palestinians, it is obvious that we should participate in the conference which will determine their fate. We have no territories for negotiation or discussion. Lebanon's borders are fixed and internationally recognized.

The third point is a complete rejection of resettlement of the Palestinians, which I have already mentioned. As for the fourth point, it stresses the truce agreement between Israel and us. Finally, the emphasis must be on the need to implement international resolutions on Lebanon. I am pleased to confirm that the Lebanese position toward all these issues is united.

Al-Hawadith: Information from Western capitals confirms that Lebanon was the only absentee during the Murphy-Polyakov talks. Did you ask the U.S. and Soviet ambassadors to include the Lebanese issue in any future talks?

Al-Turk: The term "Lebanese issue" is ambiguous. We must specify what we require from others. I believe that what we can request from the two superpowers in this particular situation is help to implement Resolution 425 and Israel's withdrawal to recognized international borders. I feel such a request would be welcomed by the Soviets and the Americans. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: It has been noted that international moves concerning the region have intensified recently: a visit to Washington by British Prime Minister Margret Thatcher and talks with King Husayn, a Murphy-Polyakov meeting, and a visit to Damascus by Vernon Walters. This was preceded by Goulding's maneuvers on behalf of the Security Council. What can result from such maneuvers?

Al-Turk: We noticed, for instance, that after Mrs Thatcher's visit to Washington there was more positive U.S. interest in an international conference for peace in the Middle East. It was also said that the British side made attempts to persuade the Americans to work positively toward convening a conference. This is important progress. In addition, there is the possibility that President Reagan might, before the end of his term, take significant action to solve the Middle East problem. This is possible on the grounds that President Reagan might find himself this time free from elections and able to embark on actions not connected with any domestic or electoral influence. There is also another opinion that since Reagan will be going, he might leave the issue to somebody else. The two possibilities exist. However, I lean toward the first one; namely, that before his term ends President Reagan must take extraordinary action on an interna-

tional level to eliminate the picture which has been firmly planted in people's minds as a result of Irangate.

Al-Hawadith: With regard to the Security Council's resolution concerning an end to the Iraq-Iran war, can this resolution, in your opinion, lead to something concrete in the sense that parties to the conflict will be bound by it, or will the war, especially the tanker war, continue? What is the effect of developments in the Gulf war on the situation in Lebanon in both cases?

Al-Turk: The resolution in itself is important. However, what is more important than the resolution, if the two warring parties fail to adhere to it, is that those who support them, especially the big powers, should at least adhere to it.

If the parties supplying arms adhere to this resolution, obviously the scale of the war will be reduced, even if it continues. However, I know that Iran still insists on the conditions it set at the beginning of the war. No change has yet occurred in the Iranian position. As for the impact of developments in the Gulf on Lebanon, they would have an impact on Lebanon if major international interference takes place.

Al-Hawadith: It has been revealed that in the past, specifically about 3 years ago, you advised the PLO to abrogate the Cairo agreement. Could you explain what you agreed, with the knowledge that this [the abrogation of the agreement] took place only recently through an initiative by the Lebanese side alone?

Al-Turk: In fact 3 years ago a long meeting took place between me and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, on the sidelines of the Arab League Council's meetings. During our exchange of views and review of positions, he asked me what could be done. I told Qaddumi: If you wish to open a new chapter with Lebanon, you must take action or create a shock that would restore trust between the Lebanese people and the Palestinian people. And this shock must be extraordinary and result in something concrete. I suggested to him at that time that the PLO cancel the Cairo agreement as proof of its good intentions and display real readiness to open a new chapter. I explained to him how positive reactions among the Lebanese people and outside Lebanon would result if such an initiative took place. I noticed that Qaddumi was influenced by this suggestion. He assured me that he would present it to Yasir 'Arafat and the Executive Committee. New developments then occurred in the Lebanese and regional arenas which perhaps prevented the pursuit of our talk and the ideas we exchanged.

Al-Hawadith: Speaking of the PLO, it has been said that the Murphy-Polyakov meeting resulted in an agreement on the PLO's participation in the international conference, but within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Have you heard of this?

Al-Turk: I believe that matters are proceeding in this direction. However, I believe that the PLO will be invited to attend the conference as the PLO. But its participation might be within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Al-Hawadith: What about the Arab summit conference? The Arab League secretary general made a tour of the countries concerned to clear the Arab atmosphere. What is your opinion? Will an Arab summit be held or not? And if it is held, what will Lebanon request from the summit?

Al-Turk: Endeavors to hold a summit have been continuing for 3 years. As is known, however, in order to hold this summit the Arab atmosphere must be cleared to ensure its success. Here reference must be made to two views: One stresses the need to clear the atmosphere in preparation for the summit, whereas another belief is that the summit should be held because the Arab atmosphere is already heavily clouded and should therefore be cleared. Anyhow, serious endeavors are being made, especially at the level of Syrian-Iraqi-Palestinian relations and Syrian-Palestinian relations, as well as relations among North African states, which used to constitute an obstacle to the summit's success. At present the Arab League secretary general and some Arab parties are making serious efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere in order to convene a summit, perhaps by the end of this year, if matters proceed as hoped.

As for Lebanon, of course it is concerned that the summit be held. Lebanon is also concerned that Arab solidarity be achieved, because this would positively reflect on it. We do not need to be reminded that inter-Arab differences were one of the reasons behind the eruption of the war in Lebanon. Undoubtedly clearing the Arab atmosphere will eliminate many complications in the Lebanese war. So in principle Arab solidarity is important to us. On another level, there is Arab aid totaling 2 billion dollars which the recent summit earmarked for Lebanon. Only less than one-fourth of this amount has been paid. Everyone is now waiting for the payment of this sum to help Lebanon overcome its economic crisis. Of course some justified this by saying that aid is futile before the war ends. However, we believe that aid should be provided before the end of the war to enable Lebanon to overcome this difficult stage. So we hope the summit will be held, since it will benefit all Arab states, including Lebanon, which will naturally benefit from its results.

Palestinians Reportedly Murder Three Youths

NC050850 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] Palestinians murdered three youths from southern Lebanon in Al-Qurayyah the day before yesterday after the youths lost their way. The incident was discussed at meetings convened at the headquarters of the Nasirite Popular Organization in Sidon. The meetings, which continued until dawn today, were attended by Dr Usamah Sa'd from the Nasirite Organization and representatives of the Palestinian factions. Sources among the conferees said that during this meeting the participants expressed the need to punish the culprits. A judicial investigation committee has been formed for this purpose. The accused have been detained and put in prison apart from one who is being held by the Amal Movement. A military tribunal has been established to take the appropriate measures and to impose the severest punishment on the perpetrators of this crime. The sources added that the conferees did not rule out the possibility of carrying out the death sentence against the perpetrators. It has been learned that the three southerners were from the villages of 'Ayn Qana, Jba', and Dayr Qanun al-Nahr.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Tehran 4 Aug
JN050926 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0915 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Damascus last night for Tehran with a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Al-Kasm Receives Soviet Oil Delegation Head
JN041937 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] At 1900 this evening, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received (Viktor Silichok), head of the Soviet Ministry of Petroleum delegation currently visiting the country. The meeting was attended by Dr Ghazi al-Durubi, minister of oil and mineral wealth, and Dr 'Ali Jubran, director general of the Syrian Oil Company. The Soviet charge d'affaires in Damascus was also present.

The prime minister was informed of the outcome of the talks the Soviet delegation held with appropriate Syrian authorities to step up cooperation between the two friendly countries in the petroleum field. Dr al-Kasm expressed his satisfaction with the results achieved.

AL-BA'TH Hails Soviet-Syrian Spaceflight
PM030935 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
23 Jul 87 pp 1, 11

[Turki Saqri editorial: "Fruit of Truthful Cooperation"]

[Excerpts] No wonder the spaceflight successfully launched at dawn yesterday from Baykonur in the Soviet Union was a brilliant and extraordinary event to the masses of our people. This is the first time in history that Syria has participated in such a great, civilized, scientific venture. This is also the first time in history that a highly trained Arab has taken part in a spaceflight, not as an amateur seeking publicity or propaganda, but as a scientific researcher carrying out a very sophisticated program. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly the presence of the Syrian cosmonaut inside the Soviet spaceship is a proclamation that Syria has actually entered the space age. It was clear evidence of the importance of cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union in various areas, and tangible proof that the Soviet Union does not deny developing countries major opportunities so that they can join the march for contemporary advancement. [passage omitted]

This example clearly expresses the importance of truthful cooperation between the Soviet Union and Syria. It also proves how a country like Syria — small in comparison with some countries but big in its ambitions and aspirations, and which truly cares for dignity and rights — promotes cooperation to the highest of levels. This was expressed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev when he said: Our friendship with Syria has risen as high as the stars.

Obviously, this example constitutes the beginning of a long chain in space cooperation, whose foundations were laid by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad within the framework of strategic, friendly relations with the Soviet Union. It is Al-Asad's forward-looking, scientific, wise vision which determined that Syria's short- and long-term national and pan-Arab interests in this age are linked to the forces hostile to imperialism and Zionism; foremost among these the friendly Soviet Union. This is because linkage with the imperialist countries can never be in the interest of the Arabs and against Israeli oppression and aggression. As the leader Al-Asad had confirmed during his recent visit to Moscow and his talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Syria will continue to strengthen and bolster friendship and expand fields of cooperation with the Soviet Union. This cooperation will not be confined to a particular area, but indeed will include various fields so as to reach the most sophisticated branches of scientific and technological advancement, including space research. [passage omitted]

In this regard we cannot compare Syria's interest in the field of space with Israel's entry into the aggressive U.S. Star Wars program, since this program, which the U.S. Administration leads, is hostile to the interests of the peoples as well as to peace. Syrian-Soviet cooperation, on the other hand, promotes the prosperity of the peoples of both countries and is in the interest of their advancement; it is for peaceful research in the field of outer space technology. Because of all this, the Syrian-Soviet space journey is an eternal symbol and living example of cooperation and friendship in the interest of peace and advancement.

Presidium Approves Message to Opposition Leaders
LD030647 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0457 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Kabul, August 2, *Bakhtar* — The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, DRA, endorsed the text of a message from the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers of the DRA to leaders of armed groups of opposition inside Afghanistan.

The text of the message said that after the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation, the state of the DRA took several measures with the aim of ending the fratricidal war opened ways for contacts and talks with the leaders of the armed groups. [sentence as received] Pardoning of prisoners, unilateral ceasefire and its extension for another six months, the adoption of decrees on the restoration of the returnees properties, the provision of work for the returnees, remission of the debts of the returning peasants and exemption of all types of taxes owed by the repatriates were among the measures taken to this end.

The decree on the regulation of water and land relations which has allowed the buying and selling and mortgaging of land and has fixed land's ownership up to twenty hectares and above it, the adoption of the law on parties, the draft constitution of the DRA and the offering of the posts to the opposing side, as indicated in the July 14 message addressed by Najib, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, to the fellow countrymen, are among other measures taken by the state of the DRA aimed at restoring peace in the country, says the message.

The message stresses that the State of the DRA offers the opposition posts of leaders and members of local bodies of authority.

The message recalls that the State of the DRA gives power to opposition groups to set up local government bodies in villages, districts and [words indistinct] ensure security there.

The message urged opposition groups to work toward ensuring peace and security at the local level and establish regions of peace. The state of the DRA will render all-round assistance to such region to implement their programs.

Addressing the opposing countrymen, the message says that the State of the DRA has travelled half of the path to national reconciliation and now it is up to the other side to complete the other half. It is definitely a big offence from the viewpoint of the religion of Islam to wage war against reconciliation.

Document Adopted on Volunteer Force Formation
LD030641 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Kabul, August 2, *Bakhtar* — The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) adopted a legislative document for regulating the procedure of formation and mode of activity of the territorial forces which are to be formed by voluntary frontier tribes' units and armed groups which came over to the side of people's power in its periodical session here.

The legislative document was adopted with the aim of consolidating and extending democracy and ensuring peaceful conditions of work for the citizens.

Matters on the rewarding of medals and orders to the deserved persons and a number of organisational issues were also discussed during the session.

The session endorsed the text of the message of the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers addressed to leaders of opposition armed groups of inside the country.

Condolence Ceremony Held at Iranian Embassy
LD032112 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] A condolence ceremony was held today at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul on the occasion of the sad incident which took place in the holy city of Mecca on the eve of the Id al-'Adha and which caused the martyrdom of Iranian hajj pilgrims.

On behalf of the DRA Government and people, Mawlawi 'Abduljamil Zarifi, DRA minister of Islamic affairs and endowment; Sarfaraz Mohmand, deputy foreign minister; a number of ulema and religious leaders; officials; and Kabul citizens went to the Iranian Embassy to express their sorrow and condolence in the name of Afghanistan's Government and people in a special book opened on this occasion.

Government Releases 5 Opposition Politicians

BK041326 Hong Kong AFP in English
1217 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 4 (AFP) — The government has released five opposition leaders who were arrested last month during a 54-hour nationwide general strike, official party sources said Tuesday.

Mohiuddin Ahmed and Abdur Razzak of the Baksal Party, Shaukat Ali and Motia Chowdhury of the Awami League and Mrs Amena Ahmed of the National Wami Party were released Monday from Dhaka Prison, the sources said. Meanwhile, at least 30 people were injured Monday when unidentified men threw molotov cocktails and bricks at a ruling party procession in the southeastern Bangladesh city of Chittagong, officials said here Tuesday.

The release of the five leaders, all members of the Awami League's eight-party Parliamentary Opposition Alliance, coincided with the government's decision to release 303 people facing trial or convicted under the Special Powers Act, which provides for detention without charge for up to six months. The five claimed they were released after petitions were filed with the High Court here on their behalf and added that the court Monday had issued notice on the government challenging their detention.

But Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Abdul Matin Tuesday refuted the opposition claim and told *Agence France-Presse* the decision to release the five was taken by the government alone, adding that it had not received any notice from the High Court challenging the detentions. They were arrested here during a 54-hour general strike called by the opposition July 22 to press their demand for President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his government to step down in a prelude to fresh general elections under an interim government. At least 11 people were killed and hundreds of opposition activists arrested during the strike.

In the southeastern port of Chittagong at least 30 people, including two policemen, were injured Monday when unidentified men attacked a procession organised by the ruling Jatiya Party, officials said, confirming press reports. Unidentified men threw molotov cocktails and bricks at marchers in the procession, held to protest frequent opposition calls for general strikes, the reports said, adding that police arrested seven people. Meanwhile, the ruling party announced Tuesday plans for a three week anti-opposition campaign through rallies, meetings and marches, starting Sunday. Opposition groups, postponed a six-hour general strike set for Sunday, due to floods in the country, but have said they will announce fresh plans for anti-government protests at rallies here August 16.

New Party Formed to 'Uphold Islamic Values'

BK031630 Hong Kong AFP in English
1617 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 3 (AFP) — Two key figures in a bloody military coup that toppled the Awami League government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975 Monday formally launched a new opposition political party here. Retired Army Colonels Faruq Rahman and Abdur Rashid announced the launch of the Freedom Party at a press conference here Monday. They said the new party "with a difference" was aimed at filling a "vacuum" in Bangladesh's political arena.

Mr Faruq Rahman and Mr Rashid said the Freedom Party would uphold Islamic values and work to establish a society based on Islamic justice and equality. "Bangladesh is a predominantly Moslem country and we want revolutionary changes in the country's socio-economic and political structures based on the tenets of Islam," they said without elaborating. They identified the country's main parliamentary opposition Awami League alliance as their principle political foe, but also voiced disapproval of government policies and called for fresh parliamentary and presidential elections.

Both men played key roles in the August 15, 1975 coup that ended the three-and-a-half year rule of Bangladesh's first leader Sheikh Rahman, who was killed in the takeover. His daughter Sheikh Hasina Wajed, who now heads the Awami League, has claimed that Bangladesh's political and social instability began with the coup and assassination of her father, and has called for the coup leaders to be put on trial.

Mr Rahman who came third in last year's presidential elections, won by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, said that the Freedom Party believed the Awami League was working against the country's interests through alleged collusion with India and the Soviet Union. The Freedom Party leaders said they had organised a party network at national and district levels.

The two leaders of the new party demanded that parliament be dissolved and an interim government be formed before fresh general elections were held, and also called for Mr Ershad to hand over power to the supreme court before new presidential elections took place. But the retired colonels, while disagreeing with the government's policies, stressed that public support for the Awami League would only play into the hands of India and the Soviet Union.

Indian Reports on Involvement in Sabotage Denied

BK310700 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Jul 87

[Text] Bangladesh has again denied an Indian press report that its officials have crossed the border to sabotage a dam in West Bengal. A Foreign Office spokesman in Dhaka today described the report carried by the *Press Trust of India* as absolutely baseless, mischievous, and a figment of a fertile imagination. The news agency quoted the West Bengal irrigation minister as saying that Bangladeshi officials had crossed the border and breached a dam in Srirampur town causing floods in vast areas. The spokesman has also categorically dismissed some recent press reports in Indian media suggesting that a guerrilla force named TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] has been formed to curb Shanti Bahini [Peace Army] activities. He denied formation of any such force in Bangladesh and reiterated there has never been any connection of the Bangladesh Government with TNV leaders.

Two Pakistani 'Intruders' Killed in Border Clash

BK050333 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] In Punjab, six persons including three terrorists were killed last evening in separate incidents. In Amritsar District, a sarpanch [village headman], Mr Gudyal Singh, his son, and a shopkeeper were shot dead by terrorists in a village near (Shehreta) last night. They were attacked by six terrorists who came on foot to the village. In Ferozepore District, three terrorists who looted a wine shop in a village near Fazilka were chased by villagers and the police party. In the exchange of fire that followed, all the three terrorists were killed. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from their possession.

In Jammu and Kashmir, two Pakistani intruders were killed in an encounter with security forces on India-Pakistan border near (Ludi) in Kathua district. According to official reports, the intruders opened fire when challenged by the security forces, and in the ensuing exchange of fire both men were killed.

Security Implications of Pakistani AWACS Noted

BK041252 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was informed today that the Reagan administration has not given any assurance that the AWACS to be supplied to Pakistan, would not be used against India. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, told the members that the acquisition of Airborne Early Warning [Control] System — AWACS — by Pakistan will have serious security implications for the country. The deep concern of the government and Parliament has been conveyed to the U.S. Administration and members of the American Congress, the minister said.

Gandhi: Accord Helps Sri Lanka Maintain Integrity

BK041629 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The prime minister has described the Indo-Sri Lanka accord as a milestone in the history of the Nonaligned Movement. Addressing a group of progressive writers in New Delhi today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said it would help the island nation maintain its unity and integrity while safeguarding the interests of the Tamils. He said Sri Lanka was seeking help from various countries which could have threatened its nonaligned status in the world. The prime minister said India's help would enable the Sri Lanka president, Mr Jayewardene, not only to resolve the ethnic conflict, it would also free him from the pressures of military powers.

Minister Responds to Report on Foreign 'Designs'

BK040930 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, told the Rajya Sabha today that the government will spare no effort to checkmate the machinations and nefarious designs of foreign elements and their agents who want to weaken the country from within. The home minister was making a statement in response to a calling attention motion moved by Mr P.N. Sukul, Congress-I, and others on the reported conspiracy and hidden hand of the CIA to oust the democratically elected government headed by Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Mr Buta Singh referred to a news item in a Bombay weekly which said that the CIA and the Heritage Foundation have been conspiring to destabilize and balkanize India.

Warns of Anti-Indian Forces

BK050409 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, today declared that the government will not allow the nefarious game of destabilization of the anti-Indian forces. He asserted that the country is prepared to pay any price for upholding its sovereignty and independence. Mr Buta Singh was replying to the discussion on a call-attention motion moved by Mr P.N. Sukul, Congress-I, and others in the Rajya Sabha today. The motion related to the reported conspiracy and hidden hand of the CIA to oust the democratically elected government headed by Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The minister said anti-Indian forces are making (?certain moves) through certain sections of the media and politicians to put the unity and integrity of the country in peril. The home minister said the large quantity of arms being inducted into our neighborhood and the training being given to the enemies of the country across the border cannot he ignored. He said the people are fully awake to these threats now.

Earlier, in a statement, the home minister referred to a news item in a Bombay weekly which said that the CIA and the Heritage Foundation have been conspiring to destabilize and balkanize India. The U.S. Embassy has issued a denial. But, the minister said, the government is not in a position to comment on the authenticity of the letter published in the weekly. He however added that the unusual interest being taken in the country's affairs in certain not too friendly quarters both in India and abroad cannot be ignored. Members said while any healthy criticism of policies of the government is welcome, a smear campaign without any regard for facts weakens the nation. Some ruling party members regretted that when the House was discussing an important matter having bearing on the country's unity and integrity, the opposition chose to stay away.

Further Reportage on PLO Chairman's Visit

'Arafat Commends Support

BK041331 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The PLO chief, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, today reiterated that the Palestinian people will continue their struggle despite all difficulties till they achieve victory. He said PLO wants a just and fair settlement of the West Asia problem through an international peace conference under the aegis of the UNO. PLO does not want the holding of the conference just to record their problem but to achieve their goal. Mr 'Arafat was addressing a

meeting held in his honor in New Delhi this evening. Mr 'Arafat particularly commended India for its continued support to their just cause when he said that the Palestinian people are strong because they have true friends like the Indian people who have stood by them during all difficult situations.

Mr 'Arafat today visited the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences and inquired about the condition of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan.

Assails Iranian Threat to Saudis

BK041614 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The PLO chief, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, has criticized Iran for its threat to Saudi Arabia to avenge the killings of the Iranian pilgrims in Mecca during a demonstration and police firing. Addressing a new conference in New Delhi this evening he said Iran's official communique to this effect amounts to direct interference in the affairs of Saudi Arabia. Mr 'Arafat described the whole episode as painful. He said even the holy Koran did not permit such demonstrations during pilgrimage.

Earlier, at a function the PLO chief reiterated that the Palestinian people will continue their struggle despite all difficulties till they achieve victory. He said PLO wants a just and fair settlement of the west Asia problem through an international peace conference under the aegis of the UNO. The PLO does not want the holding of the conference just to record their problem but to achieve their goal.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who was present, held Mr 'Arafat's hand expressing solidarity between the Indian and the Palestinian people.

Departs, Says Visit 'Fruitful'

BK050507 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] The PLO chief, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, was given a warm send-off when he left New Delhi this morning after his 3-day state visit to the country. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; his Cabinet colleagues; members of Parliament; and diplomats were present at the airport to see off Mr 'Arafat. Speaking to newsmen before emplaning, Mr 'Arafat described his visit to India as very fruitful. Referring to the India-Sri Lanka agreement, he said it is the most important event in Asia this year which will bring security not only for Sri Lanka but for the entire region.

Upper House Passes Bill on Nuclear Power Company

BK040428 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] The Rajya Sabha today passed a bill to enable the government to set up a nuclear power corporation or a government company for establishing and operating nuclear power stations. The minister of state for science and technology, Mr K.R. Narayanan, who piloted the bill, said the proposed corporation will have greater operation facilities and will be in a position to raise funds of its own. He expressed the hope that the corporation will become fully self-sufficient in financial resources within a few years and there would be no need of a government funding.

The House also passed a bill to update the Parsi personal laws in respect of marriage and divorce.

Tarapur Atomic Power Station Unit Sets Record

BK310557 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 31 Jul 87

[Text] Unit II of the Tarapur atomic power station has set a new record for uninterrupted operation. It has been continuously functioning for 200 days. The earlier record for continuous operation was 189 days in 1985-86.

An official press release issued in Bombay says the unit generated about 750 million units of power with 98 percent capacity utilization.

Khomeyni Cancels End of Hajj Festival Meetings

LD051053 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] The office of Imam Khomeyni has issued a statement expressing congratulations and condolences on the occasion of the recent martyrdom of the dear pilgrims. They were martyred in the course of crimes committed by the American and Saudi regime's agents on Bloody Friday in Holy Mecca. The statement announced:

Tomorrow his holiness the imam will not observe 'Id and will not have 'Id Qorban [feast of sacrifice marking the end of the hajj pilgrimage] meetings.

In this statement, Friday imams have been requested to perform the 'Id Qorban prayers. The statement adds that all those who have received invitations for the meeting tomorrow have been requested not to go to the Jamaran residence in view of the fact that the meetings with his holiness the imam have been canceled.

Correction to Khomeyni Message to Pilgrims, Part III

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Khomeyni Message to Hajj Pilgrims, Part III," published in the 3 August Near East & South Asia *Daily Report*, page S 2, column two, paragraph one, last line, to paragraph two, line one:

...of Mohammad's ummah.

Is it not shameful that the Islamic countries' ulema which have the holy Koran and the illuminated decrees of Islam, as well as the traditions of the prophet and the immaculate imams — peace be upon them — should establish the laws of the infidels in their Islamic countries under their own influence, while decisions dictated by the owners of wealth, power, and trickery, the true opponents of Islam, are being put into effect; or that that the political players in the Kremlin or Washington issue decrees to the Islamic countries?

The ulema in the Islamic countries and homelands must hold dialogues and consultations and exchange views on resolving problems faced by Muslims and their exit from the influence of the rulers of repression. They must bear their breasts to defend the interests of Muslims against the onslaught of corrupt Western and Eastern cultures that have caused the destruction of the nations' heritage. They must point out the evil results of being overwhelmed by Western or Eastern glitter. They must warn people and nations of the neocolonial dangers and misdeeds of the superpowers who have propagated wars and killed Muslims throughout the world.

I stress once again that the world today is thirsty for the Islamic truth and its illuminated decrees and a divine ultimatum has been given to all clergymen and scholars. The youth of Islamic countries have gone through and beyond the threshold of martyrdom. They have thrown themselves into a sea of trouble and misfortune in welcoming prison and torture. Like the brave, militant dear ones of the Hizballah in Lebanon and other countries, they have resisted and have risen in jihad against the aggressors. What better proof is there? What excuse is left for silence, for inaction, for isolation, or for misplaced caution?

If the committed ulema and spiritualists of Islam act too late, then there will be no hope. Of course, we understand the pain of solitude felt by some ulema and committed people who are surrounded by bayonets and suffer threats and illegitimate decrees from ulema who have evil intentions or are court dwellers. However, addressing all these esteemed persons under pressure from the oppressors, I remind them of God's love. Rise in the name of God and fear not solitude and isolation. [Koranic verse]

Mosques are the... (supplying additional paragraphs inadvertently dropped from original)

Syrian Foreign Minister Conveys Al-Asad's Support

LD051154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] Mr Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister, arrived in Tehran this morning and was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by Mr Velayati. In an interview with our correspondent, he said: I have been entrusted by Mr Hafiz al-Asad to deliver a message to Mr Khamene'i, the Islamic President of Iran, and to hold meetings with other Iranian officials.

Expressing his regret over the calamity that took place in holy Mecca, he stated: I will have discussions with Iranian officials on the regrettable events in Mecca and on the latest developments in the region. In conclusion, the Syrian foreign minister described the meetings between high-ranking officials of Iran and Syria as useful for the advancement and strengthening of bilateral relations.

In his meeting with the foreign minister of our country this morning, the Syrian foreign minister described as baseless the rumors in the mass media about Syrian mediations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Commenting on his visit to Tehran, he said: The tragic incident of attacks on the pilgrims in Mecca made it necessary for Mr Hafiz al-Asad to ask me to quickly visit the Islamic Republic of Iran to be present with our brothers in Tehran and to discuss ways to defeat U.S. conspiracies against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: U.S. conspiracies have endangered our region. The aim of colonialism is to use every possible means to confront the Islamic revolution of Iran. Reflagging ships, sending fleets to the Persian Gulf, and now the tragic events in holy Mecca are attempts by the United States to achieve that vile aim. It is natural that the United States is responsible for these events.

He said: I am confident that the Islamic Republic of Iran is capable of preventing the aggressors from achieving their aims. Just as American plans have been defeated in the past, they will also be defeated in the future.

Mr Faruq al-Shar' added: The United States and Arab reactionaries want to spread the war and turn it into an Arab-Persian conflict, but the Islamic Republic of Iran has succeeded in defeating that conspiracy.

During this meeting, Mr Velayati expressed his thanks for the brotherly action of the Syrian Government in sending a delegation to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He asserted: In the history of Islam a tragic event such as the one perpetrated by the Saudi Government is unprecedented. No one in the course of Islamic history has dared to attack the pilgrims to the safe house of God who are Muslim citizens. Mr Velayati said: There are many signs which prove that the Saudi Government carried out the act under a premeditated plan and that their officials prepared themselves beforehand to attack the pilgrims. He added: The Saudi Government opened fire on the people because they were chanting " Death to America" and "Death to Israel."

Mr Velayati affirmed: The Saudis miscalculated in relying upon U.S. support. If Mr Reagan could have saved himself from defeat in the Persian Gulf, he would have done so. The minister of foreign affairs of our country emphasized: By creating this situation the Saudi princes have placed themselves in a dangerous position. The United States will not be able to protect their glass palaces.

Reportage, Comment on Maneuvers in Persian Gulf

Naval Commander on Operations

LD031651 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0740 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Interview with unidentified Iranian naval operations commander by an Armed Forces radio correspondent carried as part of the "Armed Forces" program; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts][Correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to every one of you, dear listeners. In view of recent developments in the Persian Gulf, the Armed Forces,and particularly the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, have no doubt prepared themselves for any possible clash in the region. What is the combat readiness of the Navy?

[Commander] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you can see, the naval operational zone is different and cannot be compared with land or air operations. Land operations are slow whereas lightning attacks are carried out by air. The operations of the Navy fall somewhere between the two. They are neither very slow nor too fast. However, naval operations should continue relentlessly. [passage omitted]

During the early years of the war, the Islamic Republic advised countries of the region not to place weapons and port facilities at the disposal of our enemy, Iraq. For a long time we warned shipping lines not to transport goods for our enemy. When we realized they were taking advantage of our good intentions, we decided to intercept and inspect their ships. So far we have inspected some 2,000 ships and have confiscated large amounts of cargo. As a result, those countries which were assisting Iraq either docked their ships or changed their routes. Changing course meant that goods reached Iraq later, but at a higher cost. However, we have recently witnessed that, thanks to U.S. muscle flexing and propaganda, some countries have again been deceived. These countries think that should Iran decide to intercept and inspect their ships, the United States would confront Iran. They have, therefore, resorted to conspiracies. We realize this, and in order to show them that we mean what we say and intend to strongly preserve our rights, we have doubled the number of ships intercepted daily. This forces them to realize we are not going to change our position.

[Correspondent] Your excellency, as a military man in charge of heavy responsibilities in the Persian Gulf, what sort of advice would you give to those who are escalating tension in this sensitive and strategic waterway?

[Commander] We cannot deny the fact that the United States has amassed a huge fleet for the purposes of aggression in the Persian Gulf. The French fleet has been alerted and dispatched to the region to assist the United States; it is also a large force. However, was it not the same great fleet which suffered blows in the Persian Gulf during recent weeks? You saw how the sophisticated frigate *Stark*, despite its alertness and anti-missile weapons, was taken by surprise when only one Exocet missile hit it. On the other hand, hundreds of our frigates have fought during the 7 years of war and not one of them has been hit by an Iraqi Exocet missile. We saw that the mighty U.S. fleet was taken by surprise.

On the other hand, we witnessed the hue and cry they raised about their AWACS planes, claiming that they could even check the flight of birds and movement of tiny boats in the Persian Gulf. However, we have seen their naval fleet escorting oil tankers with a great deal of pomposity and propaganda on an international level. Once again they were taken by surprise when their oil tanker hit a mine. However, we have been escorting our oil tankers for the past 7 years amid countless mines planted daily by Iraq. Not once have any of our oil tankers hit a mine, because we are always alert and vigilant.

So what is the difference? They boast about their superior fleet. They boast about their electronic systems, radar, AWACS planes, etc. Who is telling a lie here? Either their equipment is faulty or they are telling lies. We are not denying the fact that the world knows that they have sophisticated equipment. However, we think the problem lies with the morale of their men. Any U.S. sailor who enters the Persian Gulf does not believe in his mission. He has a guilty conscience because he is violating the rights of other nations. When a person with such morale is sent to carry out a mission in such a sensitive area, believe me, his sophisticated weapons systems will become like scrap metal.

O you, the fighters of the Islamic Republic! O heroic nation of Iran! The world has witnessed that your 7-year-old war has turned into an epic. It is an example for other nations to follow. They have learned how to fight and how to offer self-sacrifices. Our nation has tightened its belt. Our nation has come through every test with pride. When the United States realizes this, when it removes the cotton wool from its ears and the blinders from its eyes, it will stop instigating tension. It will realize this nation is not going to surrender. Our people are steadfast. They will fight against any aggressor and will confront any violation of their rights.

Malekzadegan Says Missiles Ready

LD041648 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA — Navy Commander Commodore Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan announced Tuesday that Iranian Marines, along with other martyrdom-seeking defenders of the Persian Gulf, are ready for the great Persian Gulf battle and that if the U.S. embarked on acts of mischief in the region it would be given a decisive answer.

The Navy commander, speaking at the flag hoisting ceremony at Sirjan naval training base, Kerman Province, stressed full readiness of various units of the naval forces to confront threats of international arrogance. "Naval forces", Commodore Malekzadegan said, "are fully prepared to take revenge on the U.S. and its criminal accomplices for shedding the blood of innocent martyrs of Friday's carnage in Mecca perpetrated by the Saudi regime."

On new tactics of the naval forces to confront U.S. threats, Malekzadegan said that naval units in the region were preparing themselves for a crucial battle in the Persian Gulf so that, if necessary, they would enter the scene against any hostile forces which intend to violate the interests of the Islamic Republic.

Renewing allegiance of commanders and personnel of the naval forces to Imam Khomeyni, Commodore Malekzadegan warned reactionary rulers of the region, especially those in Saudi Arabia. Marines and other staff of the naval forces are prepared to give an unforgettable lesson to Iraq's supporters on the orders of Imam Khomeyni and at an opportunate moment, the commander said.

He stressed that all Iranian missile systems were ready to be put into operation vis-a-vis any plot by international arrogance. The Navy commander said that various plans were ready for implementation which if put into practice would display to the enemies of Islam the naval power of the Islamic Republic.

Rezai'e on Submarine Launch

NC050717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] The first submarine of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be launched during the large-scale "Martyrdom" maneuvers.

The Central News Unit and IRNA report that Mr Mohsen Rezai'e, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps [IRGC], who is in the Persian Gulf area to inspect the large-scale "Martyrdom" maneuvers, disclosed this fact while on board one of the IRGC vessels yesterday afternoon. He also answered correspondents' questions regarding the "Martyrdom" maneuvers, the Persian Gulf situation, and the readiness of the martyr-seeking forces of the Mobilization Corps and of the Revolution Guards to carry out operations against the enemy in the Persian Gulf.

Commenting on the large-scale "Martyrdom" maneuvers that are taking place in the Persian Gulf area and the Gulf of Oman, he said: These maneuvers were organized to ensure the readiness of the fighters of Islam and to increase their combat strength and naval capabilities. Through these exercises, the fighters of Islam are displaying the immense strength of Islam to confront the plots of the United States and global arrogance at this sensitive stage in the history of the Islamic Revolution.

The IRGC commander pointed out: These maneuvers are an ultimatum to countries in the southern part of the Persian Gulf not to carry out plots dictated to them by America in view of the power of the fighters of Islam. The fighters of Islam will strongly confront anyone disrupting Persian Gulf security.

Regarding the extent of the use of missile systems in these maneuvers, Mr Mohsen Rezai'e said: During the naval "Martyrdom" maneuvers, shore-to-sea and surface-to-air missiles will be used against imaginary targets.

The IRGC commander emphasized that the faith of and innovations by the fighters of Islam form the basis of combat on the battlefields and the Islamic Republic's superiority in the Persian Gulf. He warned global arrogance: If the enemy attempts to launch attacks during the maneuvers, our brothers are prepared to direct thousands of rapid and mobilized boats at floating targets in the region.

Responding to a question on the progress achieved in the IRGC's weaponry, Mr Mohsen Rezai'e said: The domestic manufacture of arms last year saved the country 40 billion rials in foreign exchange.

Stressing the Islamic Republic's superior geographic and military situation in the Persian Gulf, the IRGC commander referred to an element that can create security in the region: Most of the waters and coastlines of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman belong to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Moreover, the faith and power of the fighters of Islam, as well as the presence of our martyr-seeking people, explain why the Islamic Republic of Iran is responsible for Persian Gulf security and why it is the only element that can ensure security there.

Viewing the recent message of the imam of the ummah, Mr Mohsen Rezai'e said: After hearing this message, the fighters of Islam, who consider themselves committed to preserve and to expand the Islamic revolution, will continue their struggle with greater determination than before. As a result, the revolutionary forces of the Mobilization Corps and of the Revolution Guards throughout the country will participate in marches on Friday [7 August] and express their practical support for the historic message by the imam of the ummah.

Amphibious Operations in Gulf

LD050808 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., IRNA — Naval forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) conducted exercises Tuesday morning as part of the ongoing 'Shahadat' (Martyrdom) maneuvers in the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea.

In the maneuvers IRGC forces stationed in the strategic Khawr 'Abdallah waterway staged amphibious operations in demonstra-

tion of their combat readiness in coastal defence. Mock enemy air and sea attacks were repelled and hypothetical islands captured during the maneuvers.

365,000 Sign 'Martyrdom Certificates'
LD050848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0755 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] With their victory over the Ba'thist enemy in the course of the "Nasr-6" operations, a number of the fighters of Islam added another golden page to a history of steadfastness, self-sacrifice, and victory. The Iranian naval forces also started the great "Martyrdom" maneuvers and demonstrated the fighting capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

So far, 365,000 members of the Mobilization forces have signed their martyrdom certificates, announcing their complete readiness for suicide operations against the aggressors in the Persian Gulf.

All this demonstrates the height of the preparedness of our heroic nation and their firm resolve to continue the holy defense against world blasphemy, a holy defense in which every Iranian and every Muslim regards himself to be involved. This demonstrates the greatness of Islam and the feebleness of world arrogance.

Second Phase of Maneuvers
LD051117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] In continuation of the effort to display the power and greatness of Islam against world arrogance, particularly against the mischief of plotter America, the second phase of the great "Martyrdom" maneuvers was executed today. According to the Joint Staff of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], in this phase of the exercises the Guards and Mobilization forces of the Navy of the IRGC demonstrated their combat readiness in the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, in international waters between Qeshm, Larak Islands, and the Hormuz Strait. Their exercises included tactical floating movements performed individually and collectively. In this phase of the great "Martyrdom" maneuvers, under the command of the operational headquarters, the fighters of Islam utilized the capabilities and possibilities of weaponry invented and manufactured by the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the first submarine built by the IRGC. This is all evidence of their military power, as well as their military creativeness.

Meanwhile, reports from the correspondents dispatched by the Central News Unit, as well as the Islamic Republic News Agency, to Bandar-e 'Abbas indicate that the display of power, as well as the speed of the attack boats in all regions of the Gulf, accompanied by an air show of IRGC planes and helicopters, have enhanced the hope of the oppressed and the deprived of the world that they will overcome the arrogance. This report also states: Among the various scenes of the maneuvers there were displays of logistical capabilities, as well as evidence of support from the fishermen of the southern coasts. These provided an excellent example of the presence of popular forces in defense of Islam. The display of the tactical moves by the pilotless aircraft also indicated the innovation and inventiveness of those who have accepted the imam's call to take part in the great "Martyrdom" maneuvers.

Correspondent Details Operations
LD041356 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] In order to demonstrate the fighting capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran in maintaining the security of the Persian Gulf and confronting any U.S. conspiracy in the region, the great "Martyrdom" maneuvers were started by the self-sacrificing and martyrdom-seeking fighters of the naval force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC].

According to a report from the Central News Unit correspondent of Bandar-e 'Abbas in the operational zone, the great "Martyrdom" maneuvers began last night codenamed "Here We Come, O Imam" [Labbayk ya Imam]. They are being carried out simultaneously for the first time from Gavater Bay to the strategic approaches of Al-Faw by the IRGC naval forces with the support of the IRGC Air Force and Ground Forces and the martyrdom-seeking fighters of Hormozgan Province and with the participation of the Mobilization and popular forces from the coastal provinces of Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Baluchestan va Sistan, and Bushehr. The fighting tactics in the "Martyrdom" maneuvers have demonstrated fighting capability in defense of the shores and islands of Hormozgan Province.

According to this report, in the "Martyrdom" maneuvers the Mobilization forces and popular fighters of the IRGC first naval zone took up positions on islands, in ports, and on the shores of Hormozgan, supported by the IRGC Air Force and Artillery Unit. After hours of performing engineering-combat operations, they set up positions, simulated attacks on the enemy, destroyed them, cleaned up, linked up, took up defensive positions, reinforced positions, confronted enemy attacks from the sea to shore, moved our own naval units, and chased the enemy into the sea. In these operations they were able to crush the hypothetical enemy or force it to retreat and to engage in sea to shore defenses in the shortest possible time and with considerable speed and by using advanced military techniques reminiscent of the "Kheybar," "Fath," "Val-Fajr-8," and "Karbala'-3" operations.

In these operations the medical combat unit and the emergency unit were very very active. I should add that the great "Martyrdom" maneuvers in the Hormozgan region and the strategic Strait of Hormuz are continuing.

Maneuvers Expose U.S. Weaknesses
LD041308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1117 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Station commentary: "The Great 'Martyrdom' Maneuvers: A Display of a Small Portion of the Capabilities of Islamic Forces"]

[Excerpts] The great "Martyrdom" maneuvers commenced in the early hours of this morning along the coastal strip of the

Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. [passage omitted] Subsequent to its frequent defeats while trying to implement its aggressive policies in the Persian Gulf and following the mining of the Kuwaiti supertanker *Bridgeton*, global arrogance has announced it will not retaliate. However, the crimes committed in Mecca by the Al Sa'ud regime, as ordered by the United States, and its massacre of Iranian pilgrims in the safe sanctity of the house of God, showed the depth of American anger over the failure of its policies in the Persian Gulf.

In this context, Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the great multitude of angry Tehran citizens and said that we feel dutybound to take revenge against the United States and the Saudi rulers for the blood of the Mecca pilgrims. [passage omitted]

The United States must bear in mind that should it embark on military activities in the Persian Gulf it would not only have to deal with mines and speedboats loaded with explosives. According to military officials, there is also other equipment and facilities available to us from domestic experts, which are unknown to the United States. The selfless and martyrdom-seeking Mobilization of the Oppressed, having completed their naval combat courses, are now capable of approaching U.S. warships in their speed boats, dealing deadly blows against them, and returning.

According to some reports, we have already carried out reconnaissance moves using speed boats against U.S warships: Speed boats of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps have already approached the three U.S. warships escorting the Kuwaiti tankers *Bridgeton* and *Gas Prince* near certain coastal areas of Iran. These fast boats easily approached the warships and, having carried out reconnaissance operations, returned to their base.

These operations demonstrated that, contrary to claims by U.S. military men concerning the sophistication of their warships and their ability to control all movements, these claims are simply a propaganda ploy: U.S. warships have considerable weaknesses. [passage omitted]

London Envoy on U.S. Response to Gulf Maneuvers

LD031923 Tehran IRNA in English 1848 GMT 3 Aug 87

["White House Behind Black Friday Catastrophe" — IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Aug. IRNA — The White House instigated the 'Black Friday' catastrophe in Mecca, said Iran's Charge d'Affaires to London Mohammad Mahdi Akhundzadeh, describing it as a plan to deviate public opinion from the repeated U.S. humiliations in the Persian Gulf.

Speaking in a televised conference, the Iranian official rejected the statements made by 'I.T.N.' trade network of England which had claimed that the Mecca catastrophe probably started because of the Iranian pilgrims' provocations, saying that the 'unity rally' of the hajj pilgrims had been staged with no difficulty in Mecca during past years.

"We have solid reasons to believe that the U.S. was involved in the massacre," said the diplomat adding, "The Saudi regime which allows U.S. AWACS to collect military information on Iran has committed such a horrible crime to make up for the U.S. humiliation in the Persian Gulf."

On 'Shahadat' (martyred) manoeuvers to start from Tuesday in the Persian Gulf, the Iranian official said that the holding of the manoeuvers had been declared a month ago and its aftermath depends on U.S. provocations.

Mobilization Forces To Hold 'Allegiance' Maneuvers

LD141545 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 04 Aug 87

[Text] Tabriz, Aug. 4, IRNA — Basij (Mobilisation) forces will hold "renewal of allegiance" maneouvers on Friday August 4 [date as received] to reaffirm their support for Imam Khomeyni's message and to announce their readiness to avenge the crimes of U.S. and its lackeys in holy Mecca.

A Basij official disclosed here today that Basij forces from all government organisations and resistance bases will display their combat powers during nationwide maneouvers.

Official Says Saudi Totals on Deaths 'Incorrect'

LD021638 Tehran IRNA in English 1549 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Aug. 2, IRNA — The figures given by the Saudi regime on martyrs in Friday 'unity rally' in Mecca are incorrect, said an Iranian official at Imam Khomeyni's bureau here. Saudi Arabia said that 275 Iranians and 42 non-Iranians were martyred and some 85 Saudi Arabian security police were killed in Mecca.

The Iranian official said that imam's bureau believes the number of Iranian martyrs is much more than that announced by the Saudi Arabian regime. The bureau is busy assessing the exact number of the martyrs as well as those missing, which figures will be announced, said the official.

Hajj Doctor on Causes of Deaths, Number of Injured

LD031725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] In connection with the condition of the wounded and the medical investigations on how the Iranian pilgrims to the house of God were martyred, our correspondent conducted a telephone interview with Doctor Delshad, the supervisor of the hajj medical team, to which we now draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] As the supervisor of the hajj medical team, please tell us what is the estimated number of martyrs, injured, and those missing at this time?

[Delshad] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On the basis of the latest figures which have been collected, some 5,000 people were injured during the savage attack by the Saudi police on the pilgrims' day marchers. The injured were

transferred to hospitals in Saudi Arabia and the hajj medical hospital. Thanks be to God, the majority of these were treated as out patients. Several were hospitalized and these too were discharged at various points. In our own hospital there are some 70 injured people and in Saudi hospitals there are 31 people. Our latest total on the number of missing people is 458 persons. This includes the 31 injured who are hospitalized in Saudi hospitals. Up to this moment 319 have been registered in our statistics book as having been martyred. They are in Saudi hospitals; 33 of them are being kept at the hajj medical hospital. We are ready to transfer these corpses to Iran, God willing. A small number will remain who are still among the missing, but the search for them continues. We hope we shall be able to obtain some information about them soon.

[Correspondent] Doctor, with regard to the martyrs and also the injured in this tragedy, please tell us in general how they received their injuries and what means were used most by the Saudi police in their attacks against the pilgrims?

[Delshad] An examination of the corpses shows that most were martyred due to head injuries. A number of them were martyred by bullets. Some of them looked as if they had suffocated, and a number were trampled under foot. In general, they had been martyred by various head injuries and by bullets hitting sensitive parts of the body. The Saudis also used concussion shells [golulehhaye enfejari] which explode inside the body. The shrapnel has other effects inside the body, so that most of the persons who were hit by the shells, especially in the head, stomach, and chest were martyred.

[Correspondent] Please tell us how the injured are doing, and what kind of medical facilities there are in Saudi Arabia at present?

[Delshad] Fortunately, the state of the injured is good, we have no problems in this connection. Those who are in the hajj medical team's hospital and clinics have been treated well and have been discharged. Those who are still there are continuing to receive treatment, and there are no problems in this regard. They are comfortable. Most of them were treated as out patients, and those who were dismissed are now in 'Arafat and are busy praying to God.

[Correspondent] How will the hajj rites of this group of injured who are now hospitalized be carried out?

[Delshad] We will use our emergency facilities and will take them by ambulance to 'Arafat as a symbol of the Islamic revolution. We will transfer back to Iran those who will find it difficult to perform the rituals. [end recording]

Musavi on Saudi Delaying Tactics Over Mecca Corpses

LD041755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Despite repeated efforts by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to take delivery of the pure corpses of the martyrs of Bloody Friday in Mecca, the Saudi regime has so far only agreed to deliver 75 of these martyred bodies and is refusing to deliver the rest. Regarding this point our colleague interviewed Prime Minister Musavi, which you will now hear:

[Begin Musavi recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. After my interview this morning, so far the only development is that the Saudi authorities have apparently moved 75 bodies from Mecca; 57 bodies have by now arrived at the airport. There is no news on the others. The contact between our brothers in Jeddah and Mecca is disconnected. These 57 bodies have not yet been retreived because of the difficulties which they have created. Moreover, 33 wounded are said to have been moved, but they have not yet been delivered. They have not arrived in Jeddah.

The obstructionism, violence, and barbarism of Saudi Arabia are also seen in this regard. Our brothers are working hard to overcome this problem somehow. In any case, we must tell our people about this problem because such acts demonstrate the fear of the Saudi regime about the pure corpses of our martyrs.

This indicates that our pilgrims in Mecca are right and that they have been wronged. We must inform the world about this problem. We must debate this point of how after these confrontations, the regime even resorts to futile pretexts such as: I have no car, no bus; I must take it myself; I have no official to manage the delivery of bodies. These are all funny and laughable excuses. They simply point up the [Saudi] regime's barbarism and violent nature. This is its way of confronting us. We are dutybound to inform our people and the supporters of the Islamic Revolution everywhere of these problems, moment by moment. We must do so, so that we may show to the world the mischief of the house of Al Sa'ud.

We expect to receive, God willing, some of these dead bodies, which means that our airline will be able to carry them to Tehran. As for the remainder of the corpses, I think we will face obstacles.

Well, the government is working through diplomatic channels. Another part of our work must be devoted to exposing this on a worldwide level. This great event and its aftermath show the nature of the Saudi Government and its attitude toward pilgrims. The righteous and right-seeking people of the world must definitely hear about this. [end recording]

Iran Air Flight Leaves Mecca With Dead, Wounded

LD042304 Tehran IRNA in English 2300 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug 5, IRNA — After consistent efforts by the Islamic Republic officials stationed in Saudi Arabia, an "Iran-Air" plane carrying the first caravan of the martyred and wounded pilgrims of Mecca left Jeddah air port for Tehran at 2323 (1953 GMT) Tuesday night.

The group consists of 58 martyred and 41 wounded pilgrims who have fallen victims to the horrible crime of the Saudi regime in Mecca. The plane is scheduled to arrive at Tehran airport by 0300 (2330 GMT). An official welcome ceremony is due to be held at Tehran airport.

Musavi, Others Meet Plane

NC050537 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] Despite the dependent Saudi regime's obstructionism in transfering the holy bodies of the martyrs of the bloody incident at Mecca, the bodies of 58 martyrs of this horrific crime and 35 persons who were wounded on Bloody Friday have been transported to Tehran as a result of the persistent efforts by the Islamic Republic's officials. While an additional 250 martyrs' bodies remain in Saudi Arabia, the Central News Unit reports that Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and a number of ministers were present at the airport [Mehrabad] when the first plane carrying martyrs and wounded landed. Mr Musavi and the ministers welcomed and spoke to the wounded on board the plane.

A group of foreign and domestic correspondents were present at the ceremony to welcome the wounded from the Bloody Friday incident in Mecca. The wounded, most of whom were victims of [words indistinct] direct and explosive bullets and of a savage assault, spoke about the violent attack by the Saudi police on the march of disavowal of the pagans which led to the martyrdom and wounding of hundreds of pilgrims to the house of God. They also spoke about their condition and the condition of other (?oppressed) Iranian pilgrims.

The persons wounded during the Bloody Friday incident in Mecca informed the foreign and domestic correspondents about the savage assault by the Saudi police and on how the joint plot by U.S. and Saudi leaderships was implemented. They also described how mercenaries of the Saudi regime opened fire on unarmed demonstrators, especially women, the elderly, and the devoted. They also gave details about the massacre of other innocent people.

In addition, the wounded spoke about the completely imaginary allegations made by the Saudi leaders that not even one bullet was fired at these demonstrations. They proved it with the extent of their wounds and the existence of bullets in their bodies.

Our correspondent reports that the people who were wounded during the Bloody Friday incidents in Mecca called on foreign correspondents to follow their conscience and reveal the truth to the world and report what they have seen.

They asked the correspondents to do this to ensure that this great crime is not forgotten, even if edited films are broadcast and false reports and comments by news imperialism and by the loudspeakers of reaction are disseminated.

According to this report, following the interview with the wounded of the Bloody Friday incident in Mecca, the blood-stained bodies of the dear martyrs of this incident were carried off the plane as those assembled shouted slogans of "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "Cut off the hand of Abu Lahab [one of the earliest opponents of Islam and a relative of the prophet], and "Cut off the hand of Fahd."

Musavi on Pilgrims' Condition

NC050557 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] According to reports, Prime Minister Musavi attended a news conference [place not identified] today and answered correspondents' questions.

Mr Musavi stated: After many obstructions, the airplane carrying the wounded and martyrs finally arrived in Tehran. Unfortunately, the Saudi regime's procrastination led to the martyrdom of one of the wounded. Among the injured transferred to Tehran were individuals whose general condition can be described as extremely poor. Despite this, the Saudi regime procrastinated in transferring them. This places a heavy responsibility upon the Saudi regime's shoulders. This is in addition to the even heavier burden that the Saudi regime assumed as a result of the perpetration of this crime. Of course, the morale of our wounded is extremely high, which manifests their good faith.

Prime Minister Musavi stated: A number of the people suffer from bullet wounds, and in one case, a pilgrim to the house of God was hit by a type of bullet whose use is even questioned in war. These faithless people fired upon innocent people on charges that they opposed America and Israel. He added: The signs of the Saudi regime's assault on and crimes against the bodies of the martyrs are horrible and unbelievable.

The prime minister disclosed: A number of our martyrs and wounded are still in the hands of the Saudi rulers. Efforts are continuing to secure their return home.

Mr Musavi added: Among the wounded who returned to Tehran on the first flight are those who were unable to continue the pilgrimage. As for those who were wounded but remain in Saudi Arabia, the necessary steps have been taken to help them continue their pilgrimage.

Referring to the worldwide repercussions of the crime perpetrated by the Saudi regime, the prime minister said: We must continue to publicize that this crime was intentional. This is being documented more and more every day.

Regarding proof that the the United States and the Saudi regime knew that there would be clashes during the disavowal of the pagans' march, Mr Musavi said: This conflict was certainly connected with America's disgraceful defeat in the Persian Gulf. This plot cannot stop us. Each of these blows awakens us even more and creates a revolutionary spirit within our nation. As the imam of the ummah stated in his message, our nation's sufferings stem from Islam, and it is because of this that these sufferings are sweet for our people. We hope that these sufferings will, God willing, be beneficial for the oppressed people of the world in the end.

The prime minister stated: All of these crimes are being perpetrated in an attempt to impede our ambitions. However, we cannot be hindered on the path of Islam. We have not retreated, and we have made America's interests more vulnerable worldwide.

Mr Musavi pointed out: Western and Eastern analysts cannot comprehend the positive impact that these crimes have on Islamic societies. Meanwhile, we clearly see how all these sufferings have left indelible marks on the world of Islam and have played a significant role in communicating the message of our oppressed nation to the peoples of the world.

At the conclusion of this ceremony, Prime Minister Musavi and the other officials paid tribute to the pure bodies of the martyrs of this crime, and recited prayers lauding their lofty positions.

Wounded Pilgrims Detail Saudi 'Crimes'
LD050836 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA — Some 35 wounded Iranian Hajj pilgrims upon their return here Wednesday unveiled aspects of the crimes of armed Saudi agents.

Masud Asgharian, sustaining injuries on his legs and feet, said that most of the injured were afterwards attacked by dum-dum bullets or beaten by the Saudi agents. Prior to the police massacre, he added, Saudi agents hurled stones at the marchers from the rooftops of the nearby buildings.

Another injured Nohammad Adhamian, 26, said he was brutally beaten by the Saudi Police in which one of his feet was severely injured and the other broken when police fired dum-dum bullets at him. He said that most of the injured were transferred in vehicles used for carrying livestock. Many of the injured died due to lack of proper treatment by Saudi agents or because of being beaten again, he added.

Seyyed Rahim Dezfuli, another victim whose abdomen was ripped, revealed that women pilgrims were the main target of the attack. Pilgrims were subjected to a barrage of stones from nearby buildings and were also shot in the streets below, and when ambulances of the Iranian Red Crescent Society approached the scene the Saudis riddled them bullets as well. He said those who tried to catch other vehicles were roughed up with batons and fists, Dezfuli added.

Another injured Mansur Qasemi who had been hit by 40 fragments of dum-dum bullets which had torn his spinal cord, said as the marchers were nearing the the holy shrine in Mecca they were suddenly attacked with sticks, stones and bottles. Saudi agents emptied pails full of stones on the heads of the unsuspecting pilgrims from above the city's buildings and simultaneously police blocked all the ways to the marchers.

Meanwhile machine-gun fire echoed in the streets and a group of pilgrims, mostly women who marched at the forefront of the group of demonstrators were hit. Qasemi said the Saudis then indiscriminately blasted tear and suffocating gases and dum-dum bullets at the pilgrims. He said he was hospitalised at 'Abd al-'Aziz Hospital for five days, where the injured were under close security scrutiny by the Saudi police. He disclosed that there were a large number of Pakistani and Afghan pilgrims among the injured.

An Iranian doctor who took charge of the injured told IRNA that most of the victims are suffering from chest and head wounds. He added that one of the injured, Amir Keshavarz, died on board the plane to Tehran due to his heavy wounds.

The doctor said that when the Iranian plane landed at Jeddah airport to transfer the group, the crew were not allowed to leave the aircraft which was surrounded by Saudi armoured vehicles.

This, he stressed, was yet another proof to the fear of the Saudi regime of the consequences of the crime it committed.

There were many women injured, including 70-year-old Fatemeh Banaei, who are unable to talk due to their wounds.

Janatti Urges International Hajj Governing Body
LD041510 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA — Head of Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati requested Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran to announce Iran's readiness to host a symposium of international Islamic thinkers to study the formation of a council comprising leading ulema to administer the holy sanctuaries in Mecca and Medina.

In the letter, Ayatollah Jannati said the Iranian nation will give a tooth-smashing answer to Saudi regime and its masters for martyring hundreds and injuring thousands of hajj pilgrims in Mecca last Friday.

Avenging the blood of the defenseless martyrs on global arrogance is to takeover the administration of the holy sanctuaries by the Muslims, said the IPO head.

Saudi Charges of 1986 Explosives Smuggling Denied
LD041024 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry spokesman Tuesday described as 'unfounded' a Saudi claim in a videotaped film that Iran attempted to smuggle explosives into Saudi Arabia during the hajj pilgrimage last year.

He said to cover up the dimensions of the horrible massacre of hajj pilgrims and to divert the public opinion from the heinous crime, the Saudi regime has resorted to such 'misleading propaganda'.

The spokesman said the Saudis release such news in order to justify their (police) shooting at 'guests of God' at the holy sanctuary in Mecca.

He declared that had the Saudis, who are major backers of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime and enemies of Islam, had the faintest evidence supporting their claim they would have disclosed it last year and used it as a propaganda tool.

U.S. Involvement in Mecca 'Massacre' Cited

LD051005 Tehran IRNA in English 0956 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug 5, IRNA — The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, had hosted a gathering of U.S., Saudi, Iraqi Ba'thists, and Iranian counterrevolutionaries including Monafeqin (MKO) agents to mastermind the manslaughter of hajj pilgrims in Mecca last Friday [31 July].

In its report from Mecca the Arabic weekly *'Al-Amal al-Islami'* quoting an informed Saudi official sympathetic to the Islamic revolution who requested anonymity said that the massacre was the outcome of an agreement between the said four groups.

The highly confidential instructions for the massacre was given by the U.S. ambassador in Saudi Arabia to the Saudi Foreign Ministry following the successful 'unity rally' held in Medina last week, in which anti-U.S. slogans were chanted.

In his message classified as top secret the U.S. ambassador had protested against the rallies and hostile slogans chanted against his country.

The source told the weekly that the Saudi Foreign Ministry then sent a copy of the U.S. ambassador's note to King Fahd for further coordination which entailed the gathering of the said four groups. It was during this same notorious gathering that the decision to confront the marchers, was taken added the source.

The Saudi regime in collaboration with Iraqi Ba'thists and counterrevolutionaries martyred hundreds of law-abiding hajj pilgrims and injured thousands of others by using suffocating gas and opening fire at them.

Cabinet Meets on War, Mecca Shootings 3 Aug

LD031812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] The Cabinet held a meeting this afternoon. During this session, world issues were discussed and reviewed. Following this, Brigadier General Jalali, the minister of defense, delivered a report on the victories of Islam's warriors and the latest developments on the battlefront. He reported During the past 20 days, 8,000 of the Iraqi Zionist regime's personnel were either killed or wounded at the battlefront. A considerable amount of booty was also captured by the forces of Islam. A considerable amount of enemy equipment, including dozens of vehicles, tanks, and hundreds of light and heavy weapons were destroyed. Three enemy aircraft and seven helicopters were also shot down by the forces of Islam.

He added: In addition, three important heights in the region, including the strategic Shohada Height, have come under our control.During the session, a report on the condition of the innocent Iranian pilgrims and the martyrs of the U.S. crime in Saudi Arabia, as well as the efforts and progress of the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials to effect the return of this incident's martyrs and wounded, was delivered to the Cabinet

Prime Minister Musavi, noting the message by his holiness the imam to Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Karrubi, the supervisor of Iranian pilgrims in holy Mecca, stated: The blood that has been spilled will reverberate extensively in the world of Islam. It is a turning point as far as the defeat of U.S. rule is concerned. The prime minister added: Although this calamity is very sad for the world of Islam, it will be the harbinger of a great revolution for the Islamic world's clear and developing victories. This is the same as exporting the message of the revolution that our ignorant enemies have prepared the ground for.

Musavi, Jalali Address Session

LD040827 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 4 Aug 87

["P.M. Says Mecca Carnage of Muslims Was Encounter Between Islam and Laicism" -- IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi chaired Monday's cabinet session where he said that the bloodshed of pilgrims will surely be revenged upon the U.S.

He said that the slaying of pilgrims in Mecca served to cast doubts on the wisdom of the reactionary idea of separation of religion from politics and presented Islam's revolutionary stance which supports the oppressed against the global arrogants. Musavi said that the massacre will largely affect the Islamic world and it will be a turning point to the benefit of Islam.

Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Huseyn Jalali reported the ministers on the developments of the Iraq-imposed war declaring that 8,000 enemy forces have been killed or wounded and a considerable number of weapons seized intact over the past 20 days in the war fronts.

He said that tens of tanks as well as vehicles and hundreds of enemy light and heavywarfare [as received] were destroyed. Furthermore three warplanes and seven helicopters were also downed.

Jalali further said that three strategic heights, including Shohada Height, were also taken.

A report on the Saudi massacre of pilgrims was also presented.

Further on Cabinet Discussion

LD051149 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] The latest developments regarding the bloody Friday Mecca catastrophe, as well as the problems of transferring the martyrs and wounded home, were debated and surveyed at this morning's Cabinet session. In referring to the statements made by the wounded who have returned home, as well as referring to some nations' statements and announcements, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi declared: There is no doubt that this barbaric crime was preplanned. We will continue as before to expose the Saudi and U.S. criminals.

The prime minister stressed: The Saudis' obstruction of the

martyrs' and injured's timely transfer will not only not diminish the chances of allowing this catastrophe's dimensions to come to light, but will also further besmirch the record of the house of Al Sa'ud's rulers.

A report was also submitted to the Cabinet at today's session by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Central Bank on changes in the prices of goods and services following the introduction of the program to combat profiteering and hoarding. According to this report, on the basis of statistics collected by the Central Bank, the prices of most goods following this program's introduction show a decline of 1 to 39.9 percent compared with the corresponding prices for the same weeks of the last month. The report states: The program's decisive and continued implementation — particularly with executing regulations and directives on exercising state religious law that recently has been advised by the prime minister — must be emphasized. It is hoped that people will continue to cooperate for the program's strong and decisive implementation.

Also at this session, three checks totaling 1 billion rials were delivered to the prime minister for assistance to victims of the recent floods.

Musavi States 'Tit-For-Tat' Policy To Be Pursued

LD031900 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 03 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today said that the Mecca incident, despite its high casualty toll, will virtually be in the interests of the Islamic revolution because the deviated idea that religion should be separate from politics will be isolated in the Muslim world.

Speaking to a group of Iranian students studying in foreign coutries, here on a homecoming visit, the premier said the congratulation of heads of reactionary states to Saudi rulers on its massacre of Muslims will serve to unite various Islamic sects including Sunnis against Wahabism, a sect belonging to kings and court mullahs and backed by the U.S.

The premier made it clear that the Islamic Republic will seriously pursue its policy of tit-for-tat blow in international scenes and that the adoption of such policy by Iran is the best evidence of its independence from foreign powers and its reliance on its own nation.

Charge in Kuwait Condemns Cover Up of 'Carnage'

LD031540 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA — Iran's Charge d'Affaires in Kuwait Mohammad Reza Baqeri condemned barbaric carnage of Iranian hajj pilgrims in Mecca. He also said Kuwaiti and Saudi media propaganda to cover up the crime was "futile."

Speaking to Iranians residing in Kuwait, at the Islamic Republic Embassy today, Baqeri said martyrdom of the Iranian pilgrims by the Saudi police was "a provocative measure" against the Islamic revolution. The U.S. is encouraging regional rulers including those of Saudi and Kuwait to obstruct Iran from toppling the Iraqi regime, Baqeri said.

But, continued Baqeri, Iran will strengthen all its fronts against the U.S. and its regional puppets while its Muslim combatants will bring down Saddam Husayn.

He also expressed condolences over the martyrdom of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca and promised that the U.S. and its regional agents will be punished for the incident at an appropriate opportunity.

Official Takes Hajj Killings Message to Pakistan

LD031121 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA — Mostafa Mir Salim a top adviser to Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i left Tehran for Islamabad Monday. He is carrying a message from the Iranian president to President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan in relation with Iran's evaluation of the Friday [31 July] killings of Muslims in Mecca.

In an interview with IRNA minutes before his departure at Tehran Mehrabad Airport, Mir Salim said the influential news media of the world have conspired to overlook the unprovoked brutality of the Saudi Police with the Iranian pilgrims in Mecca, but said that the Islamic Government has a commitment to disclose facts and 'foil the plot.' A group of Iranian officials are accompanying Mir Salim in his visit to Pakistan.

Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollah Statement on Mecca Incident

NC050734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] The Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollah have issued a statement in which they describe the Saudi rulers' recent crime of massacring the pilgrims to the house of God as an act of revenge for the disgrace which America has suffered in the Persian Gulf.

The statement says: Every Muslim has the right to raise his voice in unison with his other coreligionists and in disavowing the pagans in the sanctity of the house of God during the auspicious hajj pilgrimage, which is a time to renew one's pledge to the prophet of God. Therefore, the massacre of Muslims shows that the Saudi rulers' cannot tolerate this divine call.

The Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollah point out in the statement: The Saudi regime has proven once again with this crime that it is not the superintendent of the holy shrines, but an enemy of the religion of God and of the house of God.

The statement says: The Saudi rulers are the subservient lackeys of global arrogance and especially of criminal America. The attack on the peaceful march of the disavowal of pagans was in revenge for America's defeat in the Persian Gulf.

In conclusion, the statement says: The Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollah and the Hezbollah ummah of Iraqi Kurdistan strongly condemn this satanic act and express their sympathy with all Muslims throughout the world, especially the Hezbollah ummah of Iran. The Hezbollah ummah of Iraqi Kurdistan and the Iraqi Kurdi-

stan Hezbollah, in unison with the Muslims of the world, announce their readiness to confront this criminal act and extend their congratulations and condolences to Imam Khomeyni, to the martyr-nurturing ummah, and to all Muslims in the world.

SAIRI Vows Vengeance for Deaths in Mecca

LD041058 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA — The military wing of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) in a cable to the leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni Tuesday vowed it would avenge the blood of martyred Hajj pilgrims on the U.S. and Saudi rulers and other reactionary Islamic states. The cable said that the dreadful Saudi crime filled the hearts of the world Muslims and oppressed people with hatred and aversion of the agents of this bloodshed.

Meanwhile, leader of Gregorian Armenians in Esfahan and southern Iran sent cables to Imam Khomeyni and Ayatollah Montazeri, deploring the massacre of Iranian Hajj pilgrims in Mecca. The cable hoped for speedy triumph of Muslim combatants of Iran over forces of international blasphemy and enemies of the Islamic Republic.

In another development, the Islamic Movement of Moroccan Youth sent a cable to Imam Khomeyni urging condemnation of the Saudi regime by the world Muslims. The cable stressed freedom of the holy places from under the domination of enemies of Islam and called on world Muslims to uprise for this purpose.

Afghan Muslim Leader Urges Revenge for Mecca

LD031912 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 03 Aug 87

[Text] Mashhad, Khorassan Prov, Aug, 3, IRNA — The enemies of Islam are trying to weaken the Islamic revolution's ideology which has attracted world attention, said Imam Khomeyni's representative and superintendent of Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth imam of the household of the prophet, here today.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Va'ez Tabasi made the remarks in a meeting with one of the leaders of Afghanistan's Islamic revolution movement Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur. The Islamic revolution's ideology has defeated the superpowers and they (superpowers) are still dreaming of curtailing movement of the Islamic revolution in future.

The imam's representative called on world Muslims to unite against the superpowers, expressing hope that an Islamic government would be established in Afghanistan by the Afghan nation.

In response, Mawlawi Mansur considered the Saudi regime's crime as an anti-Islamic act. Saying that Ka'ba belongs to all Muslims, he called on the Muslim world and international bodies to probe the slaughter of Iranian, Afghan and Pakistani pilgrims in Mecca.

He also urged the Islamic Republic of Iran to avenge the blood of the martyrs.

Air Force Commander Briefs Khamene'i on Readiness

LD041327 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA — Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mansur Sattari briefed President Khamene'i on the Air Force combat readiness to deliver fatal blows on Iraqi Ba'thist war machinery here Monday.

The president who also heads the Supreme Defense Council issued necessary guidelines.

Khamene'i, Malekzadegan Attend Navy Graduation

NC030518 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Summary from Poor Reception] "The graduation ceremony for several members of the Staff Command College of the Islamic Republic's Navy was held yesterday afternoon in the presence of Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. During this ceremony, Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the Navy, delivered a speech in which he condemned the crimes perpetrated by Saudi elements and police on Bloody Friday, and announced the readiness of the Navy personnel to confront plots by world arrogance." He added: "We will soon avenge our martyrs in the Gulf area."

Following the naval commander's speech, Mr Khamene'i thanked the Navy personnel and lauded their role. He said: The Islamic revolution breeds enemies. "But the Islamic Republic stands up and shouts." The Persian Gulf, he added, is a good "arena for our policy of neither East nor West."

Khamene'i Addresses Graduates

LD030841 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Sunday that Iran would not leave the massacre of Iranian hajj pilgrims in Mecca unanswered and would not stand hostility, stressing "we will deal them the fatal blow".

Speaking to a group of graduates of the Command College of the naval forces and personnel of self-sufficiency jihad of these forces, the president added "they are very vulnerable in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. was also defeated in the Persian Gulf and was humiliated politically and militarily."

Stressing on further strengthening of Iranian naval forces, President Khamene'i who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council said that big powers were supporting South African and Zionist regime [as received] and ordered the Saudis to open fire on Iranian hajj pilgrims.

He said the Americans yield not to reason but to force and that therefore Iran would address them in a language they understand.

President Khamene'i referred to the withdrawal of the two superpowers in the Persian Gulf and said it was an indication of Iran's power, adding that this power was gained in the light of

the belief of Iranian people and officials in Islam.

Pointing to the superpowers' pursuit of supremacy in the Persian Gulf region, President Khamene'i said they expected the whole region to obey them unconditionally.

But, he stressed, the Islamic Republic of Iran adhering to its neither West nor East policy, would stand firmly, adding that the Persian Gulf had become a scene to prove righteousness of this policy.

Therefore, the president said, the Islamic Republic of Iran due to the nature of its ideology and revolution and because it would not compromise with international thugs, had many enemies.

In a report to the president on the readiness of Iranian Navy, Navy Commander Commodore Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan said that naval forces were fully prepared to suppress enemies of Islam in the region.

He stressed that Iranian Navy would stand till the last drop of blood of its personnel to thwart plots of international arrogance in the region.

UN Envoy Rajaie-Khorassani Warns France on Gorji

LD020457 Paris International Service in English 0415 GMT 2 Aug 87

[Text] In an exlusive interview with Radio France International, Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations Rajaie-Khorassani explained his country's position towards France. Our correspondent in New York, [name indistinct], reports:

[Correspondent] Ambassador Rajaie-Khorassani of Iran advised the French Government against insisting on Vahid Gorji's appearance before the French justice. I think that this appearance is of crucial importance to Iran's security. The Iranian ambassador went on to say that if Paris insisted on that point, Tehran will prove that the French diplomats in Iran do not have clean hands. In response to recent reports in the French press concerning Iran's unfair use of terrorism, Ambassador Rajaie-Khorassani of Iran said:

[Begin recording] The very idea that these terrorist activities are somehow linked with the Islamic Republic of Iran is quite unfair, unjustified, and I believe that it is only an excuse for those who wish to (?solve) their internal problems from our [word indistinct]. They do not have hard evidence. It is much safer and wiser if they simply do not accuse other people. [end recording]

Turkish Official Meets Besharati, Larijani

LD311620 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 31 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA — Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Nuzhet Kandemir currently visiting Iran met acting Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati here Thursday where they discussed issues of mutual interest.

Kandemir said that an escalation of the war in the Persian Gulf will neither benefit Turkey which is opposed to the superpower presence in the region, nor regional states which should endeavor to solve Persian Gulf issues themselves. Iraq, Kandemir said, should not endanger peace and security in the Persian Gulf.

On the objective of his visit to Iran, he noted, that Iran and Turkey agreed during Iranian Prime Minister Musavi's recent visit to Ankara, to exchange views regularly on matters of mutual interest.

In response, Besharati said that Ankara-Tehran relations are wide-ranging and friendly. Pointing to the Persian Gulf developments, Besharati also said that Iran is of the belief that the U.S. seeks to save Saddam from falling by creating a fake crisis.

Besharati stressed that security in the region will be restored without the presence of foreign fleets only if Iraq refrains from attacking ships.

Iran's relations with littoral states, excluding Kuwait, Besharati said, are further expanding. Kuwait, he added, functions as one of Iraq's provinces and backs the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, which he said was not at all in her interests. Besharati also rejected a recently issued U.N. Security Council resolution for failing to introduce the aggressor.

Meanwhile, Kandemir held talks with deputy foreign minister for international and economic affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani Thursday and said that it is necessary that the officials of the two 'neighboring friendly' countries exchange views.

Larijani emphasized that Iran as the largest and most important country (in the Persian Gulf) favors safe shipping and security in the region. The crisis in the region, he said, will not necessarily be settled by superpower presence and their influence.

Iran, Larijani added, will not be the first to fuel the crisis despite being a superior power in the region and fully militarily prepared. Yet, he concluded, if the U.S. makes a miscalculation she will be forced to retreat more humiliated than her 'shameful' withdrawal from Vietnam.

Mohtashemi, Turkish Envoy Discuss Mecca 'Incident'

LD041207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jul 87

[Text] Turkey's ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran met today with Interior Minister Mohtashemi and expressed sympathy for the bloody incident in Mecca and for the martyrdom of pilgrims to God's house. During the meeting, Mohtashemi raised the issue of maintaining security in holy Mecca and Medina and its discussion by interior ministers of Islamic states. Mohtashemi announced: In view of Saudi Arabia's affiliation to the United States and the incompetence of the Saudi Interior Ministry and police to secure the safety of pilgrims to God's house, it is natural that the ulema of Islam should make a decision on ways of running the holy shrines. He said that with coordination of interior ministers of Islamic governments the necessary plan should be prepared and implemented in order to maintain security of these two holy cities. He said Iran, at an appropriate time,

will forward its proposals to a joint session of Islamic interior ministers.

In the course of the meeting, Mohtashemi accepted an invitation from his Turkish counterpart to visit Turkey.

Vural Pledge on Anti-Iran Groups

LD041749 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA — Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi called today for a joint session of interior ministers of Muslim countries in order to assess security in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia, in the wake of the massacre in that country last Friday.

Mohtashemi made the proposal in a meeting with the Turkish Ambassador in Tehran Vulkan Vural here where he stressed that Muslim ulema would deal effectively with the issue of administration of the two holy sanctuaries, but added that Muslim interior ministers should gather and formulate security plans for the two cities.

Iran will make known its plans on the issue at an appropriate time, he noted.

The Turkish ambassador expressed condolences on the Mecca incident on behalf of his country and said the loss of Muslim lives is very tragic. Turkey wants the Muslim community to be powerful, Vural said noting that we should avoid any discord and think only of unity.

Thanking the ambassador for his expression of condolences, Mohtashemi called on Vural to convey to his Turkish counterpart Yildirim Akbulut that the U.S.-planned massacre of the hajj pilgrims was carried out by the Saudi regime, its Interior Ministry and its police.

"It is wishful thinking to believe the Saudi Interior Ministry was solely responsible for the slaughter", he added.

Both cases reflect the incompetence of the Saudi Interior Ministry and security forces to administer hajj affairs, Mohtashemi said. "That's why Muslim countries should coordinate to fulfill their common duties and maintain security in these cities," he noted.

Furthermore in the meeting, the Turkish ambassador called on Iran to provide it information to enable the Turkish Government to fight anti-Iran groups inside his country.

He said Turkey will take whatever measures necessary provided Iran forward information on these groups whose activities Turkey is against. "We will not allow Turkish soil to be used by the enemies of the Islamic Republic," he stressed.

The two sides also reiterated on closer border security cooperation in the meeting, at the end of which Mohtashemi accepted the invitation of his counterpart to visit Turkey.

3rd Session of Joint Economic Talks With PRC

LD020507 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA — The third session of the joint Tehran-Beijing economic commission convened here Saturday, attended by visiting Chinese Commerce Minister Liu Yi and his Iranian counterpart Hasan Abedi-Jaifari.

Among the topics discussed during the session were Irano-Chinese cooperation in the fields of economy, science, research, commerce and industry. The volume of Irano-Chinese trade exchanges during the year 1986 stood at dlrs 250 million.

The Chinese commerce minister is scheduled to meet some other Iranian ministers during his one-week visit.

Ministers Agree on Oil Sale

LD042103 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA — Iran will sell one million tons of crude oil to China, according to an agreement concluded by the visiting Chinese Commerce Minister Liu Yi and Iranian Minister of Oil Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, here Tuesday.

The agreement was concluded after talks between Irano-Chinese experts and that of the two ministers held yesterday. The agreement will be valid for one year and will come into effect from September 1, this year.

Polish Priest Sentenced to 3 Years for 'Spying'

AU011445 Paris AFP in English 1412 GMT 1 Aug 87

[Text] Vatican City, Aug 1 (AFP) — A Polish priest has been sentenced to three years imprisonment in Iran for "spying," his missionary order announced here Saturday [1 August]. Stanislaw Skusinski, 36, a member of the Vincentian Congregation, had been held since his arrest at Tehran airport on August 12, 1986, as he was about to board a flight to Rome.

Details of Father Skusinski's trial were not clear, a spokesman for the order said. It apparently took place "about one month ago," but the exact nature of the charges, which reportedly included "activities to the detriment of Iranian security," was not known.

Father Skusinksi had been arrested a first time in April 1986, but released some weeks later, the spokesman added.

An official source in Warsaw said Saturday that the Polish authorities had several times intervened on Father Skusinski's behalf. In February, Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski had taken up his case during an official visit to Tehran, the source added.

Father Skusinksi first went to Iran since 1982, and ministered to Polish labourers employed on construction sites mainly in Isfahan Province. [sentence as received] He received his missionary training in Belgium and had previously been posted to Zaire.

The Vincentian (Lazarite) Congregation of the Mission was founded in France in 1625.

Shelling of Qal'at Dizah Residential Area Denied

LD031745 Tehran IRNA in English 1623 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA — War Information Headquarters (WIH) categorically refuted Iraqi claims that Iranian artillery had shelled a residential complex in Qal'at Dizah town. The claims were made in Iraq's [No] 2763 war communique. A WIH spokesman said that Iran has not shelled the Iraqi cities and that the claims are utter lies.

Shelling of Basra Denied

LD041658 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4, IRNA — War Information Headquarters (WIH) spokesman Tuesday refuted Iraq's allegations that Iran shelled residential quarters of the port city of Basra.

The Baghdad government allegedly claimed Monday that long-range Iranian artillery had shelled residential areas in Basra.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraqi Counterattack Repulsed

LD041146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Our correspondent has dispatched a report on the repulsing of a counterattack by the Zionist enemy in the Maymak sector, to which we now draw your attention.

[Correspondent] In continuing the successful "Nasr-6" operations in the Maymak sector, the courageous warriors of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army, provided with air support from the fast-flying pilots of the airborne division, inflicted crushing blows on the mercenary Iraqi Armed Forces.

At midnight last night, the Zionist enemy, by regrouping its forces, launched a counterattack to recapture its lost positions employing the 3d Army's 1st Battalion of the 2d Commando Brigade. However, due to the accurate and effective fire of our artillery units and close combat on the part of Islam's brave soldiers, the enemy suffered heavy losses and casualties and was forced to flee.

In the course of these operations, several tanks and personnel carriers, batteries, artillery guns, and several light and heavy weapons of the Ba'thist enemy were destroyed, with two enemy ammunition depots being set ablaze. The warriors of Islam also captured dozens of Ba'thist-Zionist mercenaries. Nine of them have so far been taken to the rear lines, bringing to 129 the total number of POW's taken to the rear to date.

Fighter-Bombers Strike Maymak

LD051007 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug 5, IRNA — Iranian fighter bombers heavily pounded Iraqi positions and inflicted irreparable blows on the Iraqi enemy in seven sorties over Maymak operational theater, western front, Wednesday morning.

The Joint Staff Headquarters of the Armed Forces said that all the Iranian fighter bombers returned to their base safely.

Ground Forces Ambush Iraqi Bases

LD051038 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug 5, IRNA — Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) ambushed Iraqi bases on Mirgah Sur axis and Baradust Heights last week, destroying the bases and seizing a large amount of munition.

Ramadan headquarters of the irregular warfare of the IRGC Ground Forces in an announcement Wednesday said that Iraqi troops withdrew and fled the area upon getting news of the attack.

Government 'Disappointed' by U.S. Aid Suspension
BK031600 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 3 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Six identical adjournment motions were admitted in the Senate today with regard to discussion about the suspension of U.S. aid to Pakistan. Commenting on these motions, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that Pakistan has always resolutely and zealously safeguarded its interests and sovereignty and will not be diverted from pursuing its peaceful nuclear program. He stated that Pakistan is disappointed and saddened by the U.S. Congressional Appropriation Subcommittee's recommendations for a 105-day suspension of aid as a reaction to the arrest of a Pakistani-born Canadian national on charges of illegally exporting a quantity of maraging steel to Pakistan. The foreign minister affirmed that incidental evidence clearly shows the premeditated scheme of those elements which do not want to see the promotion of the mutually beneficial U.S.-Pakistan relations and are knowingly putting obstacles in the way of the approval of the post-1987 U.S. aid for Pakistan.

The foreign minister stated that he has informed the U.S. Administration and Congress that Pakistan has begun a high-level investigation into the case. An arrest warrant has been issued against the Pakistani national, who is apparently suspected of being involved in this conspiracy.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan categorically asserted that Pakistan has no intention to manufacture nuclear weapons. However, he added, we reject suggestions that Pakistan should unilaterally accept restrictions on its peaceful nuclear program.

Ten members participated in the discussion of these motions. They said that the suspension of aid has sent a wave of grief and anguish among the people and has created a setback to Pakistan's trust with regard to its relations with the United States. They stated that the people are not at all ready to compromise the country's sovereignty and that Pakistan must not accept any restrictions attached to the aid. [passage omitted]

Spokesman on U.S. Relations, Sri Lankan Accord
BK041603 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has reiterated that Pakistan's policy with regard to its peaceful nuclear program has not and will not change. In an interview in Islamabad today, the foreign minister said that this position was made clear to U.S. Under Secretary of State Michael Armacost during his discussions with Pakistani leaders.

Meanwhile, a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today affirmed that Pakistan is ready to accept obligations and safeguards in the context of [nuclear nonproliferation] in South Asia. However, it will not accept any unilateral constraints or discriminatory practices with regard to its nuclear program. Pakistan believes that a unilateral acceptance of constraints will not promote the objective of nuclear nonproliferation in the region.

The spokesman affirmed that very useful talks were held during the visit of the U.S. under secretary of state. Both sides greatly desire the continuation of their friendly and fruitful relations. The spokesman added that Pakistan's stance with regard to the Arshad Parvez case has been described in great detail. Pakistan has asked the United States to provide all the evidence it has on this case. For its part, Pakistan will spare no effort in investigating this matter. The spokesman noted that Pakistan has expressed serious concern at the recent recommendations of the U.S. Congressional Appropriations Subcommittee, for if the Congress accepts these recommendations the overall aid package will be delayed. The spokesman said that if the U.S. Congress wants to impose unnecessary and unjustified sanctions only against Pakistan, then we would like to make it clear that this will hurt the promotion of good bilateral relations.

Referring to Afghanistan, the spokesman stated that both sides reiterated their stand that this issue should be settled soon in accordance with the principles set by the UN General Assembly. Both sides commended and supported the courage and determination with which the Afghan people are waging their struggle to restore the sovereignty and independence of their country. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the recent change in relations between India and Sri Lanka, the spokesman said that we hope these relations will observe the internationally recognized principles of respect for each other's sovereignty and independence and noninterference in each other's affairs. He added that Pakistan has always sought to promote world peace, particularly good-neighborly relations in the South Asian region.

When asked to comment on President Jayewardene's statement that he has asked Pakistan and certain other countries for assistance, the spokesman affirmed that we have provided necessary assistance in line with our resources and have cooperated in the past as well. The spokesman said that Pakistan enjoys excellent relations with Sri Lanka and will give all possible help.

LTTE Reportedly To Lay Down Arms 5 Aug

BK041513 Hong Kong AFP in English 1504 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] Colombo, Aug 4 (AFP) — Top Tamil militant leader Velupillai Prabakharan Tuesday told a mass rally in the northern Sri Lankan city of Jaffna that Tamil rebels would lay down their arms Wednesday [5 August], senior diplomatic sources said here.

"We love India, we do not want to fight the Indian Army and we are surrendering our weapons out of our concern for the welfare of the people of the north and the east," the sources quoted Mr Prabakharan as telling the crowd estimated at about 800,000.

The sources quoted the 32-year-old leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as saying that modalities of the weapons surrender would be worked out later Tuesday.

Four smaller rebel groups had said earlier that they would hand over their weapons to an Indian Army peace-keeping force here at the same time as the LTTE.

The LTTE, which has at least 2,000 people under arms, is the strongest of the Tamil separatist groups which have been fighting the Sinhalese dominated government for an independent state in the north and east for the past four years.

It was also the last to agree to lay down arms as stipulated in a peace agreement signed by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene here Wednesday [29 July].

LTTE Leader on Arms Surrender, Accord

BK050316 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam will hand over their arms to the Indian peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka as envisaged in the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. Addressing a mammoth public meeting in Jaffna yesterday, the LTTE leader, Mr Prabhakaran, said he is confident that the security of the Tamil people will be ensured by the peacekeeping force. Our correspondent Perumal reports from Jaffna that about 2 lakh people who had assembled applauded Mr Prabhakaran's announcement. Elaborating the reasons for accepting the accord, Mr Prabhakaran said that the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, gave him assurances about the safety and the future of the Tamils in the island. He said the existing international situation also warrants the accord as certain foreign powers are intent on destabilizing the region. Our correspondent adds that the families which fled their homes after the violence are now returning. Normalcy is being gradually restored.

About 75 Tamil militants belonging to the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization laid down their arms yesterday. According to Radio Sri Lanka, they are the first batch of militants to do so. The Sri Lankan finance minister, Mr Ronald de Mel, has in the meantime asked for about $200 million in international aid to rebuild parts of the country damaged during the 4 years of civil war. The request for aid was made during a meeting with World Bank representatives in Sri Lanka.

LTTE Begins Surrendering Arms

BK051241 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Aug 87

[Text] The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam began laying down their arms in Jaffna today. The handing over of weapons took place at Palali airfield in the northern Jaffna peninsula this evening. According to information received at the Indian High Commission in Colombo, the LTTE commander in Jaffna kept his weapons on a table placed at the airfield. Sri Lanka's defense secretary, General Sepala Attygalle, kept a hand on it signifying its acceptance. Gen Attygalle then handed over a letter to the LTTE leader granting general amnesty to all militants both in detention and outside. A large number of rifles and a huge quantity of ammunition, including grenades, were brought in a truck. The chief of the peacekeeping force, Major General Harkirat Singh, was present on the occasion. The laying down of arms has begun as per the provision of the India-Sri Lankan agreement on the ethnic issue.

Police Chief Comments on Security Situation

BK041112 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Aug 87

[Text] The IGP [inspector general of police], Cyril Herath, said that a peaceful environment now prevails in almost every part of the country. However, in a statement to the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation], he said that security measures were continuously being implemented. A large number of security forces and police personnel from the northern and eastern regions are being deployed in other areas to maintain law and order.

Meanwhile, investigations with regard to persons taken into custody following violent activities are continuing.

Curfew Reimposed 5 Aug; Hours Stipulated

BK050319 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0310 GMT 5 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 05 (*Lanka Puwath*) — The island-wide curfew which was lifted at 0500 hours (local time) this morning will be reimposed in the districts of Polonnaruwa, North Central, Hambantota in the deep south and Moneragala in eastern Sri Lanka at 1800 hours (local time) today.

In the Kandy municipal limits (Hill Capital) the curfew will be reimposed at 2230 hours (local time) today because of the Kandy Esala Perahera [religious festival].

In the other areas of the island the curfew will be on from 2100 hours (local time).